



Deep Listening. Fostering Trust. Bridging Communities.

Milwaukee County Executive Community Input Sessions for the 2018 County Budget

Final Report

September 2017

Table of Contents

Input Group Format	3
Public Support Charts	4
Participant Responses.....	5
Question Round One: “Talk about a personal experience that has affected or influenced your priorities related to County services.”	5
Parks & Recreation.....	5
Transit	9
Services for Seniors.....	9
Public Safety/Sheriff’s Department	14
Housing/Quality of Life	15
Health and Human Services.....	15
Gardening	16
Miscellaneous.....	16
Question Round Two: “While Milwaukee County has made progress on improving its fiscal health, the 2018 budget still has a \$40-\$45 million budget gap and a long list of infrastructure needs. The County Executive does not want to cut services to fill this gap and is considering new revenue options. The following options are available to the County:	17
Which one of these would you support the most or would be your first choice for a revenue source?.....	17
Increase fees for certain County Park amenities, such as golf course fees	17
Vehicle registration fee (for purchased vehicle increase of \$15-\$30)	19
New: Parking meters along the lakefront.....	21
Increase property taxes.....	22
Increase bus fares for all bus users.....	23
Miscellaneous.....	23
Question Round Three: “If there is one revenue source from question 2 that you do not support at all, which one is it and why? Is there an alternative you would look at?”	24
Increase bus fares for all users.....	24
Property Tax	27
Parking Meters	29
Vehicle Registration Fee.....	30
Increasing Fees for Amenities.....	31
Alternative Revenue Sources.....	31
Miscellaneous.....	34
Connected Conversation	34
Parting Words	40

Input Group Format

This report represents qualitative and quantitative participant feedback, gathered during the County Executive Input Groups for the 2017 Milwaukee County Budget. Sessions were held on August 15, 2017 at McGovern Park, on August 21, 2017 at Washington Park Senior Center, and on August 24, 2017 at Wilson Park Senior Center. Over 190 participants attended these sessions. The first session had 7 circles of participants, the second session had 12 circles of participants, and the third session had 12 circles of participants. All inputs were captured by facilitators anonymously and are presented in this report.

In order to solicit more meaningful community feedback and discussion, the County Executive Office partnered for the second year with the Zeidler Center for Public Discussion, a Milwaukee-based non-profit, to offer an alternative format to the budget hearing. Unlike traditional budget hearings that offer 3 minutes per speaker in a large group format, Zeidler-facilitated small groups significantly increased the time available to each participant (10-15 minutes) to provide detailed feedback recorded on facilitator notes and participant surveys. Participants were given the opportunity to provide public testimony through three structured go-arounds followed by open conversation.

Professional Zeidler facilitators in each input group recorded detailed, anonymous notes of each participant's public testimony. Facilitators also provided structured timekeeping so each participant had an equal amount of time to share, and reminded participants of some general communication agreements, as needed.

In order to encourage meaningful feedback in the input groups, the following basic communication agreements were used:

1. We will speak for ourselves, from our personal experiences.
2. We will share airtime and not interrupt or criticize others' opinions.
3. We will "pass" or "pass for now" if we're not ready to respond to a question.
4. If asked to keep something confidential, we will honor that request.

The Zeidler Center is pleased to once again partner with the County Executive Office to serve the Milwaukee community.

Questions about this report should be directed to:

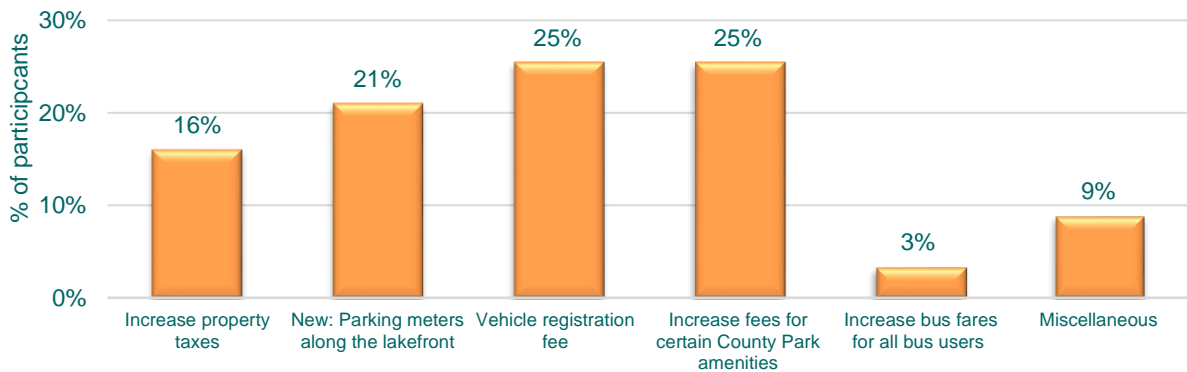
Dr. Katherine Wilson
Executive Director, Zeidler Center
katherine@zeidlercenter.org
(414) 239-8555, www.zeidlercenter.org

Public Support Charts

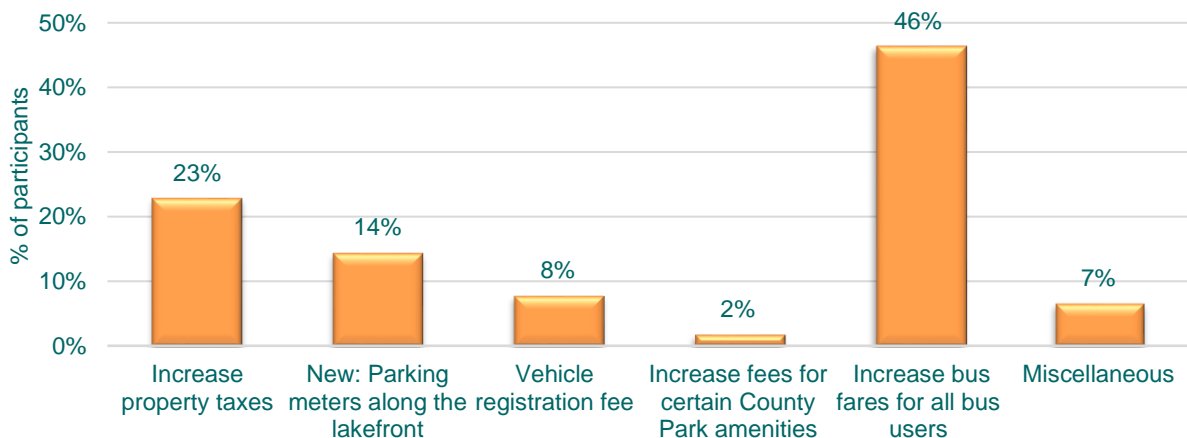
These are graphs based on the qualitative answers from participants during the rounds two and three of the dialogue. The options given to participants were the following:

- ❖ Increase property taxes, if the money collected is used to support the bus system, County Parks and County highways (projected gain: \$2.7 million).
- ❖ New: Parking meters along the lakefront, if the money collected is used to maintain the County Parks (projected gain: \$300,000).
- ❖ Vehicle registration fee (for purchased vehicle increase of \$15-\$30), if the money collected is used to support the bus system, County Parkways and County highways (projected gain: \$8.0 mil. to \$12.0 million).
- ❖ Increase fees for certain County Park amenities, such as golf course fees, if the money collected is used to maintain the County Parks (projected gain: \$500,000).
- ❖ Increase bus fares for all bus users, if the money collected is used to support the bus system (projected gain: \$1.0 million).

Which one of these options would you support the most or would be your first choice for a revenue source?



"If there is one revenue source from question 2 that you do not support at all, which one is it?"



Participant Responses

Bullet points listed below indicate individual participant responses from the combined three sessions. They have been grouped by themes.

Question Round One: *“Talk about a personal experience that has affected or influenced your priorities related to County services.”*

Parks & Recreation

- I enjoy coming here for the recreational activities like exercise and little social parties. The tax people take care of our taxes. We’ve met a lot of friends here also.
- All my life I’ve lived in the bay view, St Francis Cudahy area and I would always ride my bike through the bike trails all along se Milwaukee. For me the most important thing about the parks is that it is a lot of green space to offer. Its neutral space for all our citizens. Our parks have always been looked up to with gold medal recognition. The green space is a benefit to everyone physically and psychologically.
- I lived all my life in Milwaukee and the parks were important to me because I had good role models who were always there when I was in the parks. I just think it’s the mentality of these young people who don’t respect anything anymore who only want to destroy and intimidate. Like the Sherman park unrest. They don’t realize that the rebuilding comes from the taxpayers. I’ve been paying property taxes for over 50 years.
- I got to know Anthony regarding getting a Friends of the Park for cleaning and possible fund raising for necessary cleaning materials and I can help. It’s very important to me. We used to have a pool, 4th of July activities and other things. I guess leaders aren’t doing too well.
- The community needs a place to recreate and an accessible open space. Parks need to be safe and convenient.
- Parks need to be maintained and have accessible space, with a support system to keep the parks beautiful and clean. I never walk at night.
- We take walks around the parks quite often. We have noticed the decline of the picnic and use of water beach. They have definitely deteriorated.
- Have parks so we can have parks for seniors to play Bingo and for younger people – they need a park.
- Most important thing for County – making sure that a livelihood is available and accessible for all. It is especially important in Milwaukee County to bring people together and break barriers. There are festivals that “might” help with diversity but the County hasn’t done enough. It needs to focus on an intentional effort to bring people together – we’re still SO segregated.
- I go to parks and it’s hard to walk with all the goose droppings- they aren’t cleaned up.
- My experience is with the County parks. I like them, they are nice to come to. I really like the nutrition programs. I volunteer at Brown Deer Park and I really like the nutrition program there and at Washington Park. Park community centers are a great opportunity to get together and share in a variety of activities.
- I feel it’s critical that County government provide services that maintain and enhance the life of citizens. There is no free lunch. I don’t like it when people demand free admission to County parks, especially when they declare they are senior citizens and that they deserve free admission.
- On Milwaukee County parks and bus routes there is no exhaust, and there are friendly people. If we had bike routes where I can ride my bike I can get around quicker.
- I had a negative experience that comes to mind. They charged me \$190 dollars for a permit and they told me that I’d lose it if I didn’t show up on time. So, my husband went and stayed at the

site — they didn't have a way to mark that they had a permit at Lincoln Park. Overall, not too happy with the experience.

- Our family enjoys so many of the services – hiking and biking trails.
- The County Park that I used to go ice skating, Saveland Park, once had a beautiful logon, now you can't even get on it because of all the cattails. When I first dated my wife I shovel that whole logon off so I could take my wife ice-skating there. Personal experience, because the County has diverted the funding from the park system to go to other enmity our parks look like hell. Milwaukee County had some of the best parks in the country.
- I use the Oak Leaf Bike Trail.
- I once enjoyed going to the park with my children but now the cost has become too high.
- Some of the churches are getting more involved with the parks. They give away hot dogs and hamburgers, etc. My church has gotten involved with Sherman Park and the police are coming and participating in the games with the community.
- I feel Sherman Park is a bad area right now and lots of work is needed to bring it back to before the uprising.
- At County pools, all three of my children worked as lifeguards. These kinds of summer jobs aren't common these days. My daughter moved away from Milwaukee and her new hometown doesn't have comparable, reasonably priced facilities. They're much more expensive.
- I like the parks. I live near Lincoln Park, around Villard and Green Bay. I walk my dog in the neighborhood often, and for a long time, I felt a little "isolated" in the park. In fact, the park was overgrown and might feel creepy for some people. It was a major place for exercise for me. After \$30-40 million investment of funds in recent years to clean up the park, it does a better job of taking care of people who are underserved. I think parks help promote health. I even clean Lincoln Park myself. I'm proud of the park system and the legacy of socialist mayors in Milwaukee. They understood the basics — you keep the streets and water clean, build good roads and parks.
- When many people think of the City they think of the parks. They reach a broad audience and bring all of us together. A person doesn't have to be in a country club to have a nice facility to play in. They [the parks] bring us all together.
- When I first moved here in 1992 I moved to the Sherman Park area. I go to the [annual] festival hosted by Gengler Park. We have everything [in this County] – lakes, parks, casino. I enjoy parks periodically.
- My experience with the parks was most interactive when I was in nursing school. I had to find out about parks, clinics, and good food in the area. I found that all parks are well-maintained in the east part of 53212. Further west, in neighborhoods comprised of less fortunate people, the bathrooms are closed, bubblers are not on. There's hardly anyone there. In many cases the lawn is not mowed. I was pretty saddened.
- My experience with the parks has always been good. I took my daughter when she was growing up. As a child I lived on 9th and Meinecke. We later moved west to the Lapham Park area, and used the park. They had the pool open. They had activities for us. I felt safe. Now you don't have that.
- As a child, I enjoyed all of the services the parks offered, and I would like to see the parks maintained.
- I enjoy the concerts in the park and appreciate all parks that offer music. I enjoy having and seeing the community connections. I appreciate having the space and access to the parks. The parks are an asset.
- I love the parks and trails. I have wonderful family memories of great family time.
- The parks are not the same. I loved to take my children, but it has changed so much, that I don't take my grandkids or great grandkids.
- I haven't used the parks much. I stopped picnicking once my children were grown.
- As a family, we spent a lot of time in the parks, especially the pools.

- I love that the parks are free. They are safe and I can experience nature.
- I live near here [Washington Park] and we have parks like this that are well known outside of here. This park is really wonderful. I work near Mitchell Park and it is really wonderful. There is room for opportunity ... to achieve racial equality. It is important to me and I work through Interfaith.
- Like the park in Riverwest. I love it. There are so many people that come together there; they get to know each other; they commune . . . It's fantastic.
- I enjoy the green space and the limited number of police presence in certain areas around the city. The County should continue to keep up the parks.
- I am very excited and look forward to the 4th July activities every year.
- Milwaukee County has one of the best park centers important to community for a city.
- Whitnall Park is the best park
- Beer Gardens: They are fun and they generate revenue for the parks.
- The events are the Parks build community. I met a lot of friends at places like Jazz in the Park that happened 7-8 years ago and I'm still meeting with them.
- The parks are important to me because there's a feel of peace and calm when I'm in the parks that is like no other place.
- When I had kids the parks were really important. We'd eat breakfast at Whitnall Park. We once rented McCarthy Park Pool for a private party. Greenfield Park is great for walking. I think the Street Car is a good idea. The Beer Gardens are a good idea. You go home with a beer glass!
- Growing up in the city I enjoyed the parks year round. There were ice skating rinks in the winter. I am against alcohol so against the Beer Gardens. Alcohol causes violence. Parks should be places for young people to gather, so I'm very against alcohol in them.
- I live in the Lincoln Park area. There are people who are not going there because the weeds and grass are overgrown, there's lots of trash and people are afraid. But people want to go back. I'm part of The Friend's group. We had a National Night Out. In 1970 there were 11,000 Park workers. In 2017 there are 200. There's nobody to supervise or clean except the Friends. I want kids to be involved. We need to look into how to fund the Park. They can't do much in the Pavilion because it doesn't have a.c. The Parks were begun when we had a socialist mayor. All the parks are supposed to be for everyone.
- I need more senior and adult involvement to help me maintain the parks. I need help because of the park maintenance crew are understaffed. I do the best I can to help maintain the parks by picking up bottles and paper. I sweep off the basketball courts when I have time. I need help. I can't do it by myself.
- It's hard to enjoy the parks. I take my children to the parks, and I know the parks are important to everyone for the welfare of the people. This park only has really one outlet in, and it produces a lot of crime, and there is no quality of life.
- I live across the street from the park. I enjoy the park. I see the good and the bad. I like music. I see people dancing, and that's very enjoyable for me. However, the parks are not being maintained like they used to be. The way the trees and bushes are covering some trails, it can be very scary.
- Things in the park that people could do better. Park benches could be replaced become people are paying a lot of taxes and they should be fixed.
- Services at the park—they did supply new tables but they need to keep them cleaned and keep the parks cleaner. In spring, they need to regularly keep area around tables clean from sticks and dirt. I want the park maintenance to come and pick up before people come to use the tables.
- The Parks are the most important aspect of County government.
- I'm a lifelong Milwaukee resident. I feel like we have a quality of life others don't have. We have a great parks system. Organizations and families gather in the park. Also, we look at people holistically here. I'm more aware now of UW-Extension.

- I've enjoyed the botanical gardens since I was a child. I often go to Grant Park & Sheridan Park to look at the lake. We have family picnics at Whitnall Park – it is all fantastic!
- Whitnall Park is a peaceful place for walking.
- Every year our church has our church picnic and I've noticed you would need to book way in advance to reserve a space. I want to know how do the fees work. Can they be lowered? Our parks are really good; we need to keep the centers open.
- I take my family to our parks often. The beer Garden was always a nice addition to have. They are walkable and a good source of revenue.
- The parks are educational and social. My father was a retired County park worker and I remember going on hikes while being educated about the outdoors and nature I thought of that as a reward and I am grateful for what I witnessed.
- I enjoyed the concerts in the parks.
- The County is talking about cutting funding for the parks when they should be putting funding into repairing the parking lots. There are so many pot holes that I tripped and almost felled. We called in many time about the problem, but nothing every get done.
- Some of the parks need cleaning up, so why not put some of the prisoner to work cleaning up the parks. It would save the County money and allow the prisoner to give back to the community.
- I'm a retiree and I spend time at the community centers and parks. I'm concerned about the County keeping things in good repair. For instance, the pool table had a rip for months and I asked a County worker why it's not repaired and he responded that it wasn't in this year's budget.
- I often visit the South Shore Yacht Club – there is more parking there and it is really nice.
- I have worked many years coming to the Milwaukee County park system and the ADA accessibility not comfortable for the disable. After the all of these years, the accommodations are not still being met for people with disabilities.
- I also really like County parks — I've never lived anywhere that compares to Milwaukee's parks.
- As a teacher, I went to a lot of parks programs, nature programs with students.
- Swimming pools are great and safe for kids.
- The Urban Ecology Center had a thing for kids. That is really good stuff.
- My grandchildren have to wait for swings for older children swinging. I confronted them to get off, and got cursed out by the youth. Monkey bars are bent out of shape because the bigger kids play on them. Swings are broken.
- I agree, I go to Wilson. We have one of the best park systems in the country, little league, and athletics for kids. Kids have a place to go. It's a real plus for the County.
- I think there should be more things for the children to do at the parks.
- I want the parks to be a safe place for the children to grow up. Especially for those whose parents are working. That would give them a place to go and more constructive things to do.
- I think the most important thing for the County to do is stop closing up parks and schools in the neighborhoods. That sends the children and senior citizens into the streets.
- I think someone should be hired to work or watch out while the children are playing like when there were lifeguards to watch and make sure everything was all right.
- I have enjoyed the swimming available in the parks; it's good for adults, but mostly for the kids.
- I've noticed that there is an area on Menomonee River Parkway on the Northside an open space where people just dump everything, couches litter clothes, etc. one day somebody drove up and unhitched a boat and left it there. I called the County to come get the boat, and as they were removing it, they began to clean up the whole area.

Transit

- I try once or twice a year to use the country transit services. I don't know how I'll feel about light rail.
- Main experience with the County has been as a transit rider. If people know me, they know I ride the bus because it's such a big part of my life — I've been in Milwaukee 50 years and riding the bus for 40. I have a license, but doesn't have occasion to use it often. I retired recently and only get around on the bus. I have bus buddies and even know drivers on some routes.
- I am a believer in public transportation. The quality of the busses is nice and clean, but they are expensive to ride. The bus routes need to be increased as well as the access. More money needs to be invested in the bus system. This basic service should be available to everyone.
- I have two disabled children and the bus is extremely important to their mobility—it's their only mobility. And I work with refugees, and the bus is their only mobility.
- The van service is very important to me. It allows me to have a life. There is a proposal to raise the fare. It is already a challenge to pay the current rate. I believe this is a matter of equal opportunity. I use the service to go to the doctor and to the grocery. I know people who go to church and even to school. A 14% increase is not right. People have to decide how to use their resources: food, housing, drugs...transportation?
- I work at the Casino and talk to people from around the country. They see that we have a clean city and outstanding transportation system. Do not cut any of these. Our fees can't compare to other cities. Don't cut services.
- Go pass—experience with them taking it back. It should have lasted 4 years like they said. People at the top should have a cap on their salaries and allow seniors and disabled people to have go pass. It makes a difference when you're on a fixed income; it's hard.
- Transit system; I interact regularly.
- Buses are the most important services for me, even though I don't currently rely on public transportation—this has to be accessible to everyone; people need this to get to their jobs, get to where they need to go with no barriers.
- The County should keep the bus fares cheaper knowing that those who ride are students, poor people and the mentally disabled. Why charge those people more?
- The Go Pass – Why did they eliminate them? What about all we have paid in over all these years? So you shut the door on them?
- The seniors are a growing population, but there seems to be little concern about the impact that funding cut have. Why were the bus passes taken away. For many people the go pass was the only means of transportation.
- Wheel Chair Transit for senior citizens is very helpful.
- Scott Walker ignores Milwaukee.... They took our go-pass.
- Transportation is needed. There needs to be a lower cost for seniors. Transportation to doctor visits and visits to the grocery stores could be done much better for seniors.
- Milwaukee County took the GO PASS from certain senior citizens and it should be returned.
- The GO PASS needs to be returned to the senior citizens.

Services for Seniors

- I recently moved here, and I was looking for a place to get to know people in this area, so I went to city parks senior centers. They have arts and crafts and things to do that are desirous of a senior person. I'm here every week. There are book clubs – so many activities that are valuable to seniors. They provide opportunities to socialize with other seniors.
- The Senior Centers have exercise, socialization and crafts and that helps keep us out of hospitals and nursing homes. We've spent years sending others to school. We should have this in our old age.

- I do a lot of work here. I do taxes for seniors, safety driver courses. I see how much money these people make – very little. Their resources are limited. We need to ensure parks and senior centers are viable. Milwaukee County Department on Aging is wonderful. People retire. They move south, and come back here because we have the services. We have the social engagement.
- I depend on the senior center, that's where we meet our friends.
- I always come to pick up meals here at McGovern Park Senior Center for Goodwill. Every time I come in here I see so many seniors with recreation, and food to eat, healthy activities and value to life. Community buildings like this are so important for seniors to have a place to go and socialize.
- I think Senior Centers are worthwhile. But there have been cuts made in them. They're for meetings, and socializing and important to the community- especially for seniors. Elderly meal programs, for example. Goodwill does the meal program and Interfaith runs the centers. The County contracts it out. It runs into deficits. Less money from the state and federal tool.
- I come here [to the senior center] for classes. I'm retired and don't know what I'd do without these services at the senior center.
- As a retired nurse; when taking care of the elderly many of them are not able to get out of the house. A lot of time they can't even afford to have someone come over because those services cost. And many are not able to eat properly. There should be a mobile meal set-up to meet their needs. Some of the funding spent by the County should go to meet the elderly needs.
- I live near Elkhart Park. There are lots of activities. People are playing soccer in the weight watchers class here. People can come here and have a decent lunch or decent dinner.
- I started using the senior center doing line dancing classes. I'm retired. Getting out to socialize matters! It keeps me healthy.
- Another area for the elderly is exercises, enrichment and recreation to keep people from falling through the cracks. It's very easy for an elderly person to fall through the cracks, if they have no one to advocate for them. My father passed away when he was ninety and came to this center for meals, recreation, and meeting people. He went into woodworking after his retirement. Being in a place where he could learn different things was enrichment for him, and provides him some exercise.
- The classes offers senior center. I have taken the language and yoga classes.
- I was a visiting nurse. In private homes they couldn't use the workout facilities. Those living in facilities were taken to enjoy were happier. It makes a difference in attitude and mood.
- I'm part of the wood carvers and stained glass class. I enjoy what they offer. It pays for this facility.
- I like Wilson Park Senior Center because it gives me a feeling of purpose, provides me with a good social environment to develop new relationships. I like it because it's better than sitting around at home, it gives me the opportunity to get out and socialize and it has its emotional advantages.
- Wilson Park senior center is for seniors. If they have to cut from somewhere, let them cut from somewhere else. I need to use this center for exercise. It's near my house. I am on a very fixed income. My health insurance is not the greatest, and this is the only place I can come and feel free, relax, and have fun with my friends.
- Cutting from senior citizens who are on fixed incomes to correct the deficit from seniors, it puts us in a bind. As a senior it's hard for me to pay the prices for most things that are average. There should be some other places in the County budget that they can cut from.
- Using the senior centers is a place where I come to use the computer. I use it to find part-time jobs so I can supplement my income. So if they cut from the senior centers and County parks that means I'm going to be back at square one again.
- I really don't have much to say, but coming to the senior center to use the gym is the best thing that could've ever happened to me because it keeps me alive and functioning. I've never felt better in my life. The friends that I've made keeps me coming back, but most of all it's the gym

that I use that helps me the most. So what happens when they cut these programs from seniors? Does that mean that I am just supposed to roll-over and die? It has to be another way.

- My doctor recommended me for health reasons to come to this center daily because I cannot afford to go to a regular gym such as Planet Fitness or any other gym for that matter. I can afford this. It's comfortable. I've made a lot of friends, and if they take this away from us they can go to hell because they have made it about themselves, and we are the ones who pay their salaries and they don't listen to us and our needs.
- The senior center has been very important for me for medical reasons, and if they take this from me I am not ready for a nursing home.
- My insurance stopped. I joined the senior center for health purposes. If it were not for the center I would have nowhere to go.
- If it were not for the senior center, where would I be?
- Enjoy everything at the Senior Center – seniors need some place to go. All our friends are here.
- Parks and Bingo for seniors to enjoy themselves.
- Assuming we're talking about the present, I weave at Washington Park Senior Center, places games and exercises at Wilson Park Senior Center. These are my chances to get out of the house and socialize. In fact, I've made a lot of friends through the senior centers. They make life more exciting and give me something to look forward too. Also, there are low prices for good meals. I am thankful for the opportunities to keep my brain stimulated.
- I retired in 2007 and the senior centers have become like a second home — I'm there multiple times a week. I take a variety of classes and even started a book club. And I live by myself, so if it weren't for the meal program, I would eat most meals alone if not for the senior center.
- For me keeping the Senior Centers open keeps us sane.
- I was widowed a few years ago. I was depressed and not eating well. Someone recommended the senior meal program to me. Since I started coming here (Wilson Senior Center), I've made new friends, have healthy and delicious meals, attend quilting and tatting classes and I've started teaching a knitting class which makes hats for hospitals and inner city schools. This center (Wilson Senior Center) has given my life back to me. When people get old and finances are scarce, we just don't have a lot of options. There's no place else for us to go. I can't afford to go to a Bucks game or downtown; this place is all I am able to afford to do. I want my tax dollars to go to things I can do and enrich our lives.
- I go to Clinton Rose Senior Center. It baffled me when the prices for lunch went up 50 cents. So many things have changed. I used to go everyday now it's only 2-3 times a week especially since the \$30 fee.
- I volunteer weekly at the senior centers in various parks and I am against anything that takes away from these centers. I am disappointed in the sheriff department. I am disappointed in the leader and the system is poorly managed.
- I believe the County could provide more services to seniors and senior centers instead of parks.
- I come to the senior center about 4-5 times a week if I am not fishing. Sometimes you can get isolated but coming here you are able to shoot pool, have recreation and stay sharp.
- For the aging population Milwaukee has phenomenal facilities and the people are like a surrogate family. They almost cry when they hear about cuts. I am a caregiver. I worked for 5 years with a 95-year-old woman. Her family hired me; they asked me to take her out of the house. I took her to a senior center for lunch and –phew – it was so much fun—there was a card group. She had Alzheimer's and dementia and sundowners, she got agitated later in the day. So loving ... they [Senior Center staff] even took the card table over to the window so she could get light, because of sundowners. Wilson Center even has a 27-piece music group and a dance group lined up to dance. She wouldn't go home. She just blossomed. When she did leave the Wilson Center they were holding her hand-even kissed her on the cheek. They were so loving. 3 years ago she passed with the love of so many. This was aging at its best.

- I remember in my time at the senior center, a few years ago, there was a gentleman who worked in the woodshop. He was 94 years old and would come in a couple of times a week to help other people. I found that so wonderful and that is something that I look up to.
- I've been paying taxes for a long time! The Clinton Rose Center should stay open. Seniors need companionship.
- Keep services for all seniors; future seniors should be able to enjoy those services, as well. The environment is safe. Taking away free services is emotional. Now we have to pay for activities and many have to choose between activities and necessities, like a good lunch. You have to be considerate of people on a fixed income.
- Also, when we put on an activity, for example, a play, we have to pay the \$3 as well as the audience that comes to see it; that's not fair. We bring all the supplies, costumes, etc., and we still have to pay. Younger seniors get better access to and older seniors are excluded from some activities such as computer classes. I'm home by myself and I love the senior center because I need the company. I was a County employee. I worked hard for the County and I deserve benefits. And I paid taxes!
- I have been traveling around the country looking for a good city in which to retire. My family wants me to have a place where I am not bored and not a burden to them. The system of senior centers and activities is wonderful here. Now my family is saying.
- The senior centers – they are preventative medicine. Coming to them has kept me healthy. I have lost 35 pounds. When I had a back injury, I was able to continue my exercises here (Wilson Senior Center). They keep me connected to people. Without these Senior Centers more people would be depressed and in nursing homes.
- Senior Centers keep us healthier with Tai chi, meditation, and arthritis classes. I like the Zoo with free admission for seniors. The Senior Centers keep me around people and not become isolated. But we need more volunteers to keep it going.
- By coming here (Wilson Senior Center) I've learned a lot; met friends; got a hearing evaluation and learned about Fiscal health.
- I lost my husband 7 years ago and came across the Wilson Senior Center for lessons. I volunteer for the lunch program and crafts. The Center is my home away from home. I met a lot of people here. If it wasn't for the center I may not be alive today.
- "Don't go so many places!" There are many opportunities here without spending money.
- I am retired and on fixed income. I don't have to spend money to come to this senior center. I socialize and meet new people. I come to play cards with a wonderful group of people. There are activities, pool, and exercise. If I didn't have this I would sit home bored watching TV.
- I love the senior center. This is an outing where I meet people. I use the respite care services also. Workers come and pull weeds and change my storm windows and screens. I have a fixed income and this is a great help.
- I come two to three times a week to the senior center. It is all free. The taxpayers support this. Yet, I have traveled to Europe and New Zealand and there, there are even more free services for seniors. They can travel all over their whole country for free. I wonder how that is funded.
- I am retired. I enjoy the senior center. I like to socialize and I get balanced meals. Without the senior center I would not get this. And I know my friends need the balanced meals. The men especially don't know how to cook. The socialization is very important. My work before I retired was in providing services to the elderly and disabled. This is a need. Otherwise they will sit in front of a TV and be bored. That can cause depression, even mental illness. That would cost the County even more. I need socializing.
- Senior center services are important to me. It is an outlet for socializing. I also like the Department on aging services I have used.
- Important to maintain the senior system in Milwaukee County, the meal program is great, don't decrease the services.

- Do not get rid of the senior centers, the seniors who attend the centers have longer life with the centers activities and dog parks.
- I use this senior center and any cuts would really hurt the many services that they provide.
- The most important thing is the Senior Centers. They provide an available resource for us.
- The meal programs that Senior Centers provide are useful.
- The Senior Centers help us (senior citizens) to stay independent.
- We need to maintain Senior Centers they provide an outlet for us. To cut the services we receive now would affect our quality of life.
- I am in agreement with everyone else about the importance of the Senior Centers.
- I enjoy going to Senior Centers doctors at Veteran Administration Hospital encourage me to continue attending Senior Centers.
- I work with seniors and I a lot of the seniors live in high rises and the high rises don't offer all of the activities the senior centers offer. The centers are good for families as well.
- I am a senior ambassador volunteer. The info that we provide to other people is very important. People are able to find out a lot of things by going to the centers. It's about their needs and experiences of their friends and neighbors. Senior centers are an important information gathering place.
- Keep people's physical and mental abilities together in the senior centers. It's been scientifically proved that keeping senior's minds sharp is helpful.
- I'm new to Milwaukee. I go to the Senior Centers.
- I belong to Wilson Park Senior Center. I'm 87 and the center has saved my life. When my husband died, I started going to the center, talking with younger people taking classes, exercise, meals (many depend on that meal!), don't take money away from the Senior Center.
- The #1 priority is the Senior Centers. They are a big plus for senior citizens. The nutritional meal, interfaith senior centers have exercise equipment. We can socialize instead of sitting at home. I graduated from MATC with a certificate in accounting and then stayed home watching Judge shows. Now I get out.
- I have lived in the County my whole life. There is no transportation in the suburbs. [For physical reasons], I can't use the bus. I use the van service to the Senior Center since I've had foot problems. I met my new friend 5 years ago and we have been together ever since. I think the Senior Centers are a benefit for many. They have meals, continuous learning. Systems have been cut enough. We have to have safety and health, garbage pickup. Possibly you can increase fees and taxes. We have to pay for what we get and we need to keep our good city.
- Keep the Senior Centers open. I go to Wilson and it does people good to be around other people.
- We do all we can to keep the Senior Centers open for the seniors. This has been such a great resource for me since my husband passed in positive thoughts and feelings from being around others and taking part in the many activities. Without the centers I would not be alive.
- I worked with aging persons and persons with disabilities.
- We [husband also in group] just retired, and now I can benefit from taxes. This center [Wilson Senior Center] is a place to meet people, and it makes our lives better. We've been paying taxes all of our lives.
- The facility here [Wilson Senior Center] means a lot. I get a decent meal each day. County Parks are great for families, but they aren't more important than a facility like this. There are lots of activities here, opportunities to exercise, and health information, which means less trips to the doctor's office. Taxes and vehicle registration keep going up. I don't understand why they'd close this place. Even the donation for the food [senior meals at Wilson] has gone up.
- I like it here [Wilson Senior Center]. I'm actually eating vegetables I haven't eaten before. I don't pay property taxes, but I live with my cousin, and she doesn't mind if taxes go up to help seniors. Others don't understand that seniors need this.

- I've been coming to this senior center since 1999. I've seen people lose spouses, and this is a lifeline. People don't have food at home, and they come here for meals, exercise, and friends. We pay taxes, and we need this. We need friends.
- We have lunch here, socialization. That is very important. There are classes, learning about health, eating, crocheting, etc. Keep our bike paths up – that is easy exercise. We gave in the past, now it's our turn to benefit from what we have given.
- I like the food service and the giveaways (bread, etc.). And the security is pretty good.
- The Centers help us stay out of nursing homes. My children are in their 40's and they know how important it is for me to be here. Someday they'll be older too. I'm retired 6 years and I volunteer on lunches. I help with the monthly dance and work with boxes from Hunger Task Force. This helps a lot of people.
- I've been coming for 9 years. I was a volunteer. I use the computers, work out in the fitness center and I've made friends here. I feel like I've helped pay for part of the furniture here (joke). My footprints are all over this place.
- I'm not from Wisconsin I just recently moved here and I'm overjoyed by the number of activities and facilities the County has for senior citizens and families. Continuing to invest in facilities as such is important.
- I started out at the center just exercising and then I began to feel better and started to listen to conversations that were going on and when I started participating I connected with lots of people. Many people appreciate the lunch program.
- Clinton Rose Park senior center is a safe harbor for me, and I just hope they don't take it from us.
- I live in Milwaukee County and I attend the Clinton Rose center. There are only 6 handicapped spots in the parking lot, and in the winter, the snow gets plowed in difficult ways, leaving an icy lot. I have complained to the County and they have not fixed it. I have now started up the ladder of County supervisors. We need to take care of the areas we have and I'm trying to be an advocate. I have documentation in case I slip and fall and this happens to me. No one seems to care.
- The Rosette Dancers is a lifeline for me. Great dancers, great communication, I'm part of group, and we have meals together.
- Senior centers are great social life and socialization.
- I am a volunteer here at Washington park every day. I used to be in the 55+ program but they kick you out after 4 years! This place is like family. I take two buses to get here but it's no problem for me at all.

Public Safety/Sheriff's Department

- During major holidays I would like to see more security and plain-clothes officers. Larger parks need to be watched more closely, and clean up the bathrooms. They are unsafe.
- We need bike trails because that's what I use. I'm in and out of the parks, and the bike trails are unsafe, and not properly lit, and can be dangerous during dusk dawn hours.
- Bus stops in the area are not lit, and it's very dangerous.
- No stop signs on the highway through the parks. The basketball courts are being taken over by older young adults, and our children are being bullied off the basketball courts.
- There was a family in the park gambling. I called the police, and they said there was nothing they could do about it. They were urinating on the trees in the park, and I take my grandchildren to this same park, and we need more lighting in the park. I reported it to the police, and said I'm going to bring my family members to the park, and two weeks later the park was cleared.

- I do see a need for public safety. We can't let more officers go. We need public safety. They get a lot of calls and need to prioritize. I don't know what the suburbs have for garbage collection. We want our garbage and leaves collected and streets swept.
- There is too much overlap with sheriff's office.
- My concern is for safety. We have some gangs they are roaming around in some of the park area and I'm afraid to walk around in the park. There was a time we would see police officers or parole car in the parks but they have disappeared.
- Bike trails need to be safer. Some type of security needs to be added.
- Too many drugs being sold in the parks and it takes away from the parks.
- This summer the M.P.D. gave a family event in Washington Park. So many people came together and it was very family-friendly.
- Parks—they should keep the parks safe. Security personnel should be around more regularly to keep parks clean from dogs because kids are there.
- I don't walk at night in the parks for safety reasons.

Housing/Quality of Life

- Quality of Life varies – when I think about the role of government, it should fill in the gaps for quality of life, whatever they are. It needs to advocate for all.
- Quality of Life – Parks, trails, bike systems, culture, transportation.
- I work for the County. I find it hard to think about what I'd like to do at the County given all the requirements put on them by the State. Really, the County level of government exists to serve the functions the State tells them to. The County does a lot of expensive and required services, and ultimately, I would like to see them do more for the quality of life of Milwaukeeans. The County manages the parks system because it once went bankrupt. Because transit and parks are not mandated programs, I worry deeply that transit and parks will continue to be squeezed when we need to make difficult decisions about funding.
- We need to invest in finding more space for individuals in economic distress to enjoy their time. The lake is great spot for these individuals to go but now they want to increase parking charges.
- Free events that are safe for citizens.
- Through my job, I coordinate the homeless services system. The most important thing is Housing First [the Housing First model]. Housing saves money, so if we were to bring this approach to scale, what could we then spend the saved money on to improve things? That is, if we don't have to pay for sheriffs to arrest homeless folks. Lifting the least lifts everyone.

Health and Human Services

- I see that there are 3 areas that the County needs to be a leader – Health (however defined) which includes Behavior and Mental Health, Dept. of Health and Human Services and Aging; Safety.
- I think more needs to be done in Mental Health and addiction treatment. I feel there needs to be better coordination with social workers. Persons coming out of private health care unable to get their records or having to wait for coordination between County and other agencies.
- I have a grandson who is in need of help and I am trying help his parents get to the next step for help with his special needs. I need to know how to go further or where to reach out.
- Mental Health is an issue that definitely needs more coordination with social workers. My husband was in a nursing home two years before he passed and there was a person that kept bullying him and my husband had no protection. This is something that I witnessed several times myself when visiting with him.
- Continue to expand and combine services in Mental Health.

- Very important to better serve those with disabilities in the specialist program. There is a need for more training and backup. This program is very valuable for those who are eligible, the County workers serve in social justice and it is cost effective. I hope that this will somehow be available and implemented for those families with children in need.

Gardening

- I live across the street from McGovern Park. I think it's a good thing when the grass is cut and it's kept clean. For a while it wasn't clean and no one wants to come when it's like that. Now they're doing a good job. It's beautiful.
- I'm also a community gardener and that has provided me the opportunity to grow food with others that I may not have met otherwise.
- What the County has done for me is personal. By having and maintaining the garden (1/4 acre, 2 gardens) I am able to make veggies and give to my neighbors. I make and sell some of my produce and I donate veggies to Ronald McDonald house every week and this makes me feel good I can participate in County and UW system.
- I'm involved in community gardening; it covers maintenance costs and produces food resources. Up at Kohl Farm-40 acres in a food desert—they are producing \$1M dollars' worth of food.
- I'm a volunteer with the UW-Extension co-op, and in my work there, I serve adults with disabilities. I think that it is important that the Milwaukee County office help persons with disabilities and in areas of nutrition, economic development, and 4-H. I volunteered to help at the Extension co-op during my transition to being a special education teacher.

Miscellaneous

- I agree about July 4th. Everything has been cut. They've raised taxes on my house \$400. Also there's fear about crime. I don't stay on my porch in hot weather any more. My water bill is way up. My Social Security isn't that high. What are they doing with taxes? Not fixing things the way they should.
- The Office of African American Affairs. We have serious racial and economic challenges. We can't shy away from this. We need to be collaborative to address this. These are City and County issues. I don't hear much about it.
- Sales tax referendum—the people wanted it and the State said “no.” This is egregious; it was the most equitable way to pay for services. How do we change this?
- How could Abele give such a big raise to his employees? Why doesn't he take a cut in his pay? I was a factory worker. People lost medical insurance after retiring.
- Subsidizing jobs for jobless people in areas of high unemployment.
- The County is donating money to the new Bucks stadium when they already had a beautiful place – that's insane. The Bucks are millionaires. Why wasn't the Bucks stadium on a referendum? Insane! We voted for him, and it sounds like he wants to close these centers down – insane!
- There is no place to go and be kids anymore. That's why our youth lash out. I think that's bad.
- I see life skills offered that help me to develop at my age, but also for younger people – such as the STEM programs. We'll need our young people to have STEM skills if Foxconn is going to be here. Everything costs so much, though. I'm newly retired and on fixed income, so raising property taxes, or having a wheel tax is challenging. However, I'm willing to pay more if it means a better future for my grandkids.

Question Round Two: *“While Milwaukee County has made progress on improving its fiscal health, the 2018 budget still has a \$40-\$45 million budget gap and a long list of infrastructure needs. The County Executive does not want to cut services to fill this gap and is considering new revenue options. The following options are available to the County:*

- ❖ Increase property taxes, if the money collected is used to support the bus system, County Parks and County highways (projected gain: \$2.7 million).
- ❖ New: Parking meters along the lakefront, if the money collected is used to maintain the County Parks (projected gain: \$300,000).
- ❖ Vehicle registration fee (for purchased vehicle increase of \$15-\$30), if the money collected is used to support the bus system, County Parkways and County highways (projected gain: \$8.0 million to \$12.0 million).
- ❖ Increase fees for certain County Park amenities, such as golf course fees, if the money collected is used to maintain the County Parks (projected gain: \$500,000).
- ❖ Increase bus fares for all bus users, if the money collected is used to support the bus system (projected gain: \$1.0 million).

Which one of these would you support the most or would be your first choice for a revenue source?

(Note: The State of Wisconsin does not allow the County to increase its sales tax beyond the current 5 percent rate). Which one of these would you support the most or would be your first choice for a revenue source?

Increase fees for certain County Park amenities, such as golf course fees

- The County park amenities – I’d prefer to see that. I don’t think we should start putting in meters on the lake. That’s a lot of people’s recreation. What if they’re there two to three hours? That change going into the meters adds up, or people will get tickets because they don’t get back to their cars on time because they are enjoying the lake. Also, I don’t go for the vehicle registration because we just had an increase for that.
- Golf makes our parks more beautiful but I’d choose that option because I don’t play golf.
- Increase the amenities
- You could increase the golf fees.
- Increase the amenities. I believe if you’re getting something out of it, you should pay into it.
- Golf course fees being increased.
- I’d support increase of the park amenities, even though the park is a natural green space for everyone, I mean if you pay the fees you should be able to use the amenities, but we shouldn’t exclude people from using the parks
- I’d support the County parks amenities fee, people have the right to use it, if the park needs to upgrade or add something, money will always make it happen to maintain it.
- Increase the amenities I would say.
- Park amenities.
- Increase fees for amenities like golf courses.
- I’d say increase the golf course fees some I don’t play golf.
- Increase the golf course fees, the golfers have the money.
- Increase park service fees, then vehicle registration fees. I don’t like the idea of lakefront parking meters, which affect tourism.
- Don’t increase fees on parks, other than maybe golf fees, people can’t afford it.
- Fees for golf—Yes

- I agree with increases for certain amenities such as golf course fees.
- I approve of golf course tax. I used to work at a hotel and they could increase their own taxes. I felt they got a lot of revenue that way.
- I think we should increase fees on entertainment for the lake and park amenities.
- The increase in fees for certain park amenities. I'm not interested in raising property taxes or paying for a baseball diamond that I will not use.
- Increasing fees on amenities would be appropriate too, such as golf, because that happens in the parks.
- Also, number 2—increasing fees on amenities, but that would be only in the summer too. I know that they already increased the vehicle registrations, but I think that certain service stations they charge you a \$10 late fee. The late fees can be charged because you didn't do it in time. It would be a disaster to increase the bus fare. They should not cut funding to the senior centers because we are on fixed incomes.
- Increasing fees for certain park amenities.
- I like the idea of raising golf course fees. I don't golf but the people who do golf need to pay for it.
- But I also like the raising of fees for golf. If they can go play golf let them pay. I am a senior that can't walk that far. I am too elderly to use that service.
- Tax the rich people who play golf and have money.
- Raising Golf Course fees.
- My first choice would be to increase fees on golf courses, music in the park, etc. I go to all of the parks with my grandkids, and I think they should be taken care of.
- Increase fees for County Parks. The people are using the Parks so they can help pay for upkeep.
- I think they should increase the fees for the golf courses because I can't afford to play or pay for the golf course use anyway.
- For those who play golf, they should pay more for their fees if they want to play on these expensive golf courses in our city. I don't know how to play golf, don't want to learn to play golf, and I could never afford the prices to play.
- Raise County parks fees
- Raise County parks fees, then lakefront parking meters
- Raise County fees and then lakefront parking meters
- We should raise County park fees to make it more of a pay as you go but that doesn't bring in the amount of revenue we need.
- Wheel taxes is a hard thing for seniors – those of us who drive – because we can't pay our insurance, hardly, on our cars. I think we should pay higher fees for our golf courses and the time spent on those courses.
- I would support increased amenities for Golf Course fees because I think it is affordable to those who use them.
- I go for an increase in golf course fees. This is a luxury. I feel that if you can afford this you can pay more.
- I go for option #4 (Park amenities). This is the one I would choose.
- Option #4. Golf course fees should be raised if they can afford it they can afford to pay a little bit more. Its leisure and I don't want to increase property tax and other things.
- I don't like any of the proposed revenue resources but I would support increased amenities for Golf Courses.
- I'd say the recreation use. Those individuals who are golfing obviously have the funds to spend on recreational use. The other options are effecting livelihood.
- Not property taxes, not lake meters - everyone likes the lake-, not vehicle registration. I would say park fees, because I don't golf. Sorry for those who do.
- So, my second choice would be to increase feels at the parks. My family reserves the parks for our family reunions, and it's worth it to pay more.

- I don't go to the lake. I think that's mostly for younger people. I'm not for vehicle registration fees. I would say increase the fees for the parks. As was said, I feel bad for the golfers, but I don't golf.
- Increase in the golf fees maybe, but do not cut fees that provide services to the elderly or disable. "Don't Hit Them!"

Vehicle registration fee (for purchased vehicle increase of \$15-\$30)

- Seniors can't afford the property tax increase. County highways and parks need a lot of work. Seniors need the buses to get around and they don't have money. People don't play on golf courses because they aren't what they could be. Improve them. Meters on lakes would keep people from going.
- We cannot afford an increase in our property taxes. Vehicle registration fee should remain. We seniors cannot afford anything.
- I'd go for \$15-\$30 extra to buy a car. That's not that much. Everybody's not buying a car.
- The vehicle registration fee. Home values are going up, so property taxes will automatically increase.
- The vehicle registration fee is the biggest ticket item. The money would go into transportation so those using the services get the base. Charge a higher fee for luxury vehicles. Less for less fancy and older cars.
- I'd support the vehicle registration that's only just one fill up of gas if you think about it
- I would support the increase for the vehicle registration. But I also strongly suggest that it needs to be very progressive and a fair situation. I wouldn't want a person who has to register a 1999 vehicle and have to pay the same price as a 2017 Audi would.
- I think the vehicle tax would be good to raise. I think it would help the budget.
- The vehicle, it is the least restrictive.
- Vehicle registration fee because it would produce the biggest return to close the gap.
- Vehicle registration fee.
- Vehicle registration fee. Owning a car is a luxury and comes with a cost. It feels reasonable and makes the most sense.
- I would support Vehicle Registration Fees.
- Increasing vehicle registration is viable.
- I agree with vehicle registration fee.
- I agree with vehicle registration fee.
- I would support vehicle registration fee.
- I agree with vehicle registration fee because it is annual.
- My option is #3 because people are poor and if they don't have a car they won't be bothered with the \$30 increase. The good thing is that you pay it once and it's done; it's a one-time shot.
- I will support an increase in vehicle tax fees. It helps in all areas. Buses, parks, and highways. It decreases cars on the road. It cuts down on pollution. I can say that because I don't own a car. I'm looking at it from a selfish viewpoint. The transportation we have is a very good bus system. We need to cut the fares for seniors and the elderly.
- Vehicle registration fee. I was not happy with any of the choices, but I chose this one because if you use the service, you should bear the cost.
- I'm concerned with Madison giving money to businesses coming into Wisconsin. People in the County don't have a decent car to get to these jobs. The County bus Go Pass was a great idea but now its being taken away. It's hard to survive on a low fixed income. I don't like the tax breaks given to the Brewers and Bucks- these are wealthy people. We should keep more money in the County and not give so much to the state. No more cart registration fees on the poor folks- they can't afford it. The registration fees should be based on the value of the car- if you drive a Cadillac you can afford a higher fee.

- First choice is increasing vehicle registration. Seniors are impacted less by this one. I would not invite a gas tax, however. My husband and I own three or four vehicles.
- Why can we have a stadium tax but not decide to increase sales tax on ourselves? I'm also disappointed that an advisory vote passed to raise taxes for transit that never turned into law. I think raising the vehicle registration fee would be the best of the options provided. The increase seems reasonable to me. I am also willing to pay more for bus fare because I ride the bus and that means something to me. That said, I know that increased fair would affect people working minimum wage and low wage jobs. Many folks that the first hour they work is going towards paying for their transportation. And many folks don't have enough cash flow to pay for the weekly or monthly passes, which make each ride more inexpensive. So, I know increase in bus fare may cause some people to suffer.
- I think vehicle registration fees make the most sense to increase because it's the biggest bang for the buck. I'd also want to raise a gas tax. I also approve of the property tax. I think that a weekly increase of \$2 might even be enough to push some people over the edge. In the parks, there are 200 full time park workers now, so I know how overstretched they are. I feel the bus system is critical to our city. In fact, I think cars diminish the livability of cities.
- I support vehicle registration fee first, as it's the best ongoing revenue stream. We have low vehicle fees compared to other states, but those increased costs would still be substantial to people living in poverty. This is true for property taxes as well. I believe in affordability. That said, I'm willing to pay for more for premium facilities.
- I think the vehicle registration fee makes the most sense. Some can't afford it, but it does bring in money. Many people are weary of any kind of property tax increase.
- I would choose the vehicle fee because it has the most revenue. No one will talk about the reduction in services if that's what we do. You'll only know if you work in that area, or your family is affected. Other regional counties have sales taxes, income taxes. Many states have that. It's a total lose situation for us. They can only defer costs until down the road, or cut services and not talk about it. It makes me MAD because it's such a screw! It's a sin and moral outrage!
- I would support the vehicle registration fee for the amount of revenue it would raise.
- I would also support the vehicle registration increase.
- Maybe vehicle registration increase, but that's hard for poor people
- I support the vehicle registration fee because it brings the most money to the County. Then other money is available.
- On the one hand, since I am not a driver I support raising the vehicle registration fee.
- 2nd choice is vehicle registration fee since there are a lot of vehicles. \$15 sounds better than \$30.
- Vehicle Registration Fee is the first choice.
- Vehicle Registration Fee. It seems to make the biggest dent in the deficit.
- Increase Vehicle Registration fee. I hate that but it is the best choice.
- We need to cut back on transportation, fix the roads. Increasing the taxes is not really going to solve the problem. An increased vehicle registration fee is the way, to me, to go.
- Vehicle registration fees. In my heart of hearts, we probably should raise property taxes to bring in that amount of revenue needed but I don't want to see that happen.
- None are very good but I would agree to vehicle registration fee.
- Vehicle registration could take a hit. Those with vehicles will only incur the one-time fee. I also believe it would be fair to charge those who aren't citizens of Milwaukee this fee. They come into town and use our roads and take up parking but don't have to pay the fee.
- My first choice would be a vehicle tax because it raises the most revenue. Transportation funding helps people with nothing to build lives. The GO Pass, especially, helps people to get to jobs. However, a progressive vehicle tax would be better. I could pay \$30 or more, but if I

were on a fixed income, that would be harder. With a progressive tax, there would be the same result, but it wouldn't disproportionately affect people who can't afford to pay as much.

- First, I would say vehicle registration, because it generates the most revenue. \$30 per year would be better than being 'nickel and dimed' constantly for bus fares or parking meters. Vehicle registration would support the buses, and that's good; and it would support the highways, and I'm a driver, so that's also good. It would offset the gap. I don't like the idea of meters on the lakefront. We're not saying hundreds of dollars per person for golf, etc., so that's not a big deal.
- I agree with the vehicle registration fee. It's a good way to get money.
- Vehicle registration is relatively cheap.
- Vehicle registration fee if the fees are set to bring in four to six million?

New: Parking meters along the lakefront

- Golf is not my thing. My son loves it. Buses are too high. The last time I took one, a long time ago, it was very expensive. Number two would be best but would it affect enjoyment at the lakefront?
- Parking meters.
- The parking meters along the lakefront. Other places have them. Residents pay for parks.
- I would support new parking meters on the Lakefront.
- Putting meters at the lakefront would not hurt.
- Parking meters along the lakefront; don't know how that would work, but could limit access to the lakefront for all Milwaukeean. There is very limited parking downtown and when we have special event what impact meters would have I don't know.
- I would also agree to new parking meters on the Lakefront.
- I agree with new parking meters at the Lakefront.
- They already started taking away movies, but I also agree with new meters. I can't afford them to raise sales taxes any higher. I don't have a problem with putting parking meters on the lakefront.
- Parking meters is what I would choose to cut the deficit. My insurance has been cut. I probably will lose everything if taxes are raised. I can't afford any more fees.
- Putting meters on the lakefront also will help the budget.
- I think we need a greater discount for seniors who are on fixed incomes. Parking meters on the lakefront, I think is a great idea. Security in the park is much needed because I only go down to the lake during the day. I can remember when I used to go down in the evening, my husband and I, so that's why I say more security.
- I suggest putting in high tech electronic meters on the downtown streets that can be increased for events. People come in from the suburbs and out of town to use our downtown city streets.
- I would choose the parking meters along the lakefront. They already increased the vehicle registration fee [so that should not reoccur in the new budget]. As far as bus fares, people pay what they pay.
- I would support the Parking meters on the lakefront.
- Of this list, number 1, parking meters along the lakefront sound good, though I think \$300K is just a guess there. The peak time to collect this would be the summertime, as there would not be as many people parking there in the winter.
- Parking meters would help—that would be good.
- Parking meters along the Lakefront. No increases but a new fee is okay.
- Parking meters along the Lakefront.
- No increase in property taxes but parking meters, yes.

- I support new parking meters at the lake front to support parks and senior centers. This is not something I use. Let's those who use that pay for it. I am also for money for busses and transport.
- I like the parking meter at the lakefront idea. That is a choice. No one is forced to go there. Not fair for others to support the services there.
- Lakefront parking meters.
- Lakefront parking meters as well.
- I support new parking meters at the lake front. I haven't been down there in years. It is not a service I use. If people go there they should pay for it. If they take advantage of the lakefront they can pay.
- I like the idea of parking meters at the lake front...plus...15 sites that are free for the handicapped.
- First option: New parking meters at lakefront. I don't park there, but people who do there could afford it.
- Even adding all of them together wouldn't get you to the deficit amount. Parking meters by the lakefront, most people down there have the time and money to do it.
- I don't want property taxes to increase. They are already high enough. It doesn't matter about the parking meters being put at the lakefront because I don't go down there anyway.
- Parking meters along the lakefront—you should pay for your pleasure.
- I would support new parking meters on the Lakefront.
- My second choice would be to put meters along the lakefront, so that we can maintain the area.
- Parking meters at the lake front – parking is a problem and a safety issue. The people who go to the lake front would pay for it.
- Parking meters at the lake front – won't cost more for people who don't use the lake front.
- I would support parking meters at the lake front – sort of a user fee.
- Lakefront parking meters, then park fees and then vehicle registration fees.
- I have a problem with this kind of question. This is a survey. People who make the budget need to look at resources. They create problems and ask us to fix them. I don't have an answer to this question. I am for putting in parking meters along the lakefront. We are homeowners. An increase will be tough on us. I'm not in favor of an increase to register my car. But I am in favor of meters along the lakefront.
- Lakefront parking meters, and then park fees and vehicle registration fees.

Increase property taxes

- I'd support the increase of property taxes, I've been a homeowner for four years so an increase wouldn't really hurt me much, and I spend money elsewhere anyway.
- I don't want any property tax increase. I think I had to pay \$125 for my auto license.
- Increase property taxes
- I'm OK with increasing property taxes. Everything costs more and more every year; it's not realistic to not raise taxes.
- But really, I support raising the property tax by a minimal rate. For 2-3 dollars a year million can be raised. The 400,000 homes times 2 or 3 equals a lot of money.
- I like the property tax idea. A little from everyone adds up
- Increase property taxes. This solution increase property value and I want the money to be earmarked specifically for just this.
- 2nd is an increase in property tax. It wouldn't deter people from owning homes and homeowners would see an increase in rent payments.
- I would go with increasing property taxes, it puts less of a burden on everyone. Another \$10-15 dollars won't hurt much. The water bill is even more.

- I'd say increase the property taxes, I know homeowners are pained buy it but I am beginning to rent for the first time ever in about 3 weeks. I have never moved in my life!
- Number two would be raising Property Taxes.
- A Property Tax increase is my first choice. I'm a homeowner and am more agreeable to that.
- Raise property taxes. Then vehicle registration fees since that is a one-time thing. Do not raise bus fares
- My choice is property taxes.
- Maybe property taxes, it is becoming increasingly difficult to live.
- Increase the property tax, this is the most equitable way. People with big houses can afford more, presumably, based on value. I am all for one equally.
- I lean toward raising the property taxes but this isn't a catch all for all revenue needs. We can't always go to the property tax to pay for things.
- I feel pushed into a corner having to choose between these options. Increasing property taxes ... if I had to choose [from these options] then some version of property tax increases I am most OK with, but I am still hesitant.
- I agree with all of you [about increasing property taxes] But when I look at this list ... adding up the additional revenue doesn't even add up to the projected deficit.
- Increasing property taxes would be fair for everyone. It wouldn't be focused on a demographic as the others do.
- I think either the vehicle registration fee or property taxes would be fare.
- Property taxes. I agree that it's fair for everyone.
- Increase property tax.
- I would support Property Taxes.
- Property Taxes.
- An increase in sales and property tax. Other fees will be hard on other people. I can't afford it. Sales tax will generate a lot of revenue.
- Slight increases of property tax.
- Increase property taxes, but not for low income.
- I would agree with property taxes because it's a onetime fee with a ration of 10%.
- Increased property tax would support the most things, but is also not all good. I really don't want any of these increases.

Increase bus fares for all bus users

- We do all of this and still don't make our goal. Make people who take the bus pay a little more.
- Increasing the bus fee—in one way, yes I would support it, but for senior citizens it should be half of the fare because senior citizens are on a fixed income.
- If not property taxes, then I'd go for #5 if the money will really be used for the buses to run. We need the busses in proper condition to run for kids to go to school.
- I would be willing to consider raising bus fares. I also think it should be cheaper for low income people otherwise they can't go where they need to go. The only other alternative is riding bicycles.
- Increase bus fare – to keep it going.
- Because of Milwaukee County Transit System seniors were allowed to ride for free. I suggest that seniors be charged \$100 a year for MCTS services.

Miscellaneous

- The money on the list would only cover half the deficit.
- I added it up- only \$16 million. -Not enough to cover it.

- The state threw out the last increase on the auto license tax. I'm against all of them. They won't face the state inequity.
- We need to work with state legislators to create new revenue sources. Increasing bus fares is self-defeating; it reduces ridership. I like the idea of a tax on workers in Milwaukee County. People living outside the County but working in the County use County services but don't pay anything. I am not keen on property taxes. We are sending much more money to the state and not getting enough in return.
- I don't think senior citizens should have to pay any tax for the use of the bus system. I am not in agreement with any of the revenue resources.
- Wisconsin is one of the highest states in the Union for property taxes.
- I don't like any of them and seniors are really put on the back burner. They way the allocate funding to assist seniors makes it seems like they really don't care about us.
- Why doesn't state allow sales tax to increase? I think that would be the most fair. Vehicle registration isn't paid by everyone because not everyone owns a car. And not everyone rides the bus. All of the options are too targeted and not everyone shares the burden. We should be able to increase sales tax if we decide to do so within our County. We all would pay, because we all buy things.
- All of those feel like they're penalizing folks in The City of Milwaukee. Folks outside of The City benefit to use the parks, take buses, and we use our vehicles to take us to our jobs. [As a result] I am not in favor of any of them. I live on a fixed income. These costs rise, but not my pension. I'm not hard against folks with families, but where do we get the money from?
- Why can't Milwaukee County live within the budget?
- I and my wife have be bus drivers for twenty-five years and many of the people don't pay their bus fare and we still had to give them a transfer.
- You talk about parking meters. They don't put money in the meters in the first place, and money for the vehicle registration is not a good ideal. Bus fares they don't pay know to get on the bus. I work for the bus company for twenty-five years, and have witnessed people who did not have fare get on the bus and sit down, and ask for a transfer.
- It bothers me that the \$40-45M gap won't be helped a lot by a lot of the revenue options here. If the state would help with debt service then we could get back on our feet. We could be self-sufficient with that. Why bother with getting more money from us, when we could tell the state that us and Madison could secede from the State? Should have recalled the Governor and getting rid of gerrymandering.
- A lot of these ideas seem to feed the money back into things that we actually need. I think the state has an attitude towards us.
- That's a really hard question. I say to call the governor. The government should be providing the funds. Raising the fees would raise the least money but would be my first choice, but people can't afford to pay more for swimming pools, etc. Maybe we should look at the partnering of organizations like the Boys Club and Urban Ecol. Center with the Parks.
- We should be doing more to market the parks.

Question Round Three: *"If there is one revenue source from question 2 that you do not support at all, which one is it and why? Is there an alternative you would look at?"*

Increase bus fares for all users

- I'm against the increase in bus fares. Increasing the fares makes it more difficult for folks to get to work, school and have a social life.

- I say no to increasing the bus fares, most people who use the bus have a hard time anyway. The bus is their only source of transportation.
- Increased bus fare—No.
- Do not increase bus fare.
- Bus fares needs to be minimally increased. We should find ways to offset costs and property tax increase.
- Do not raise bus fares!
- Bus fares should not be raised—I'm retired and on a fixed income and I don't feel it's fair to increase this.
- I wouldn't go with buses being more expensive. It's already difficult for people to get to and fro since it's already so expensive.
- Seniors can't afford it they have medical bills, insurance doesn't cover, medication and #5 if it is not used to help bus system; don't use it.
- No bus fare increase. I take the bus every day and that would affect me and a lot of poor people have to use the bus.
- I am totally against raising the bus fares.
- No increase to bus fares for all bus users. Give the GO PASS back to the seniors.
- No increase to bus fares for all bus users.
- Oppose increase in bus fares – I use the bus a lot.
- People need government. Some folks don't have enough money for their needed medications, we need others to pick up the slack. Some people need that Go Pass. Fix the problems, don't take more money from people who need it.
- I agree with what was just said [previous respondent – no to bus fare increase]. The least fortunate ride the bus.
- I also agree [no to bus fare increase].
- I also agree. Increasing the bus fare impacts not only the individuals who ride the bus, but also the nonprofits that assist people. There aren't grants that want to pay for bus tickets, so that money is hard for us to come by.
- I also agree [no to bus fare increase]. My brother uses the GO Pass, and he's disabled, and it helps him a lot.
- I don't like increasing bus fares. I had a [negative] gut reaction to the \$30 vehicle registration cost, but listening and talking, I realize that if we want to maintain services and quality of life, someone has to pay. Bus fare would impact people with the least resources.
- I strongly feel that fares should not increase for the bus. As is, the prices are already a lot for a lot of people without cars. Not sure if there are special passes for lower income people, but I know how hard transportation can be for working people.
- [I do not support] the bus fare increase. I want to see other options that address the underlying issues with, for example, bus drivers ... a bus driver was shot to death. There is poverty and people need transportation and safety to get to jobs.
- I completely rule against increasing the bus fare. Why would we increase the cost for those who have to ride the bus? These are either students, people in economic hardship, or people without much money.
- I think that we should not increase the bus costs. I think we should increase sales and gas tax too. I'd be willing to pay a sales tax of 6 or 6.5%. This seems fair because everybody would pay it. People living on fixed incomes might have an issue with, given the cost of living increases that are inevitable.
- I don't like raising bus fares. I would raise sales tax. People most impacted by bus fares are low wage or minimum wage. It can be hard to find the money for weekly or monthly bus passes.
- I would support all of the proposed increases. I feel we can't afford to take anything off the table. That said, I would maybe protect the current bus fares. Given our moment in time, everything should be on the table. I will continue to vote to make the state take responsibility.

- I agree. We need increased bus services to get people to work. We'd lose revenue instead of gaining it. The budget won't work unless we have a revenue. If we reduce park services and people won't use it. Kids then commit crime so more law enforcement is needed. Politicians need to sit with residents and HEAR us like done in times of old to get our input. They don't do that anymore. Bus fare increase would be the wrong thing.
- I least support an increase in bus fares. An alternate is a bus pass with a reduced rate to get to work.
- Don't increase bus fare, because County services should be affordable. I have used public transportation in other cities, and not only do they various options for public transportation, but they are nicer and cheaper. I would support a wheel tax.
- No to bus fare increase; people can't get to work and people need to use bus services.
- Don't increase bus fare because I don't want my grandkids paying high prices to ride the bus.
- According to the budgeting act, the buses are now self -sustaining, with a 2-million-dollar profit. Do not increase the fares.
- The bus system needs help, and vehicles are why we need more funding for the roads. Property tax is a non-starter. I'm very against a bus fare increase.
- I'm against raising bus fare because it hurts low-income individuals, the elderly, children, and disabled individuals. The alternative that I would suggest is user-based fees that don't impact the populations above. I don't know off the top of my head what those might be.
- No increase in bus fare.
- I don't support increased bus fare. If everyone--the people participated in the decisions, there would be a better outcome.
- I question the bus service increases. I can't pay extra. The streets are horrible. I live in a bad neighborhood for streets. We need to spend money on street repair not on the street car.
- We can do away with the streetcar. But we need public transport. Busses are needed for the elderly and disabled. The services should never be cut nor the fares increased.
- No bus fare increase. The most needy would have to pay. People like me can least afford an increase.
- Do not raise the bus fares
- No bus fare increases. I object to the street car. If they want one let them privatize it. It should not be in the transit system.
- No increase bus fares, everyone should not be paying the same fees.
- Against the increase in the bus fare. I'm a bus user. Ridership is decreasing because fares are increasing and there's fewer routes. There's a lot of senior citizens that use the busses and they don't always have alternatives. I would rather use the property tax.
- Against increasing the bus fare. Too many people have to ride the bus to get to jobs. This is picking on the lowest income people. I don't know who can qualify for GoPass anymore? This is making things harder. Why give the Go Pass in the first place if you're going to give it away? Didn't they already know if these worked by studying it? Lots of people started using the bus after the GoPass and they didn't know about it before.
- I am totally against increasing bus fares. People have a hard time with it now.
- Bus fare. They eliminated the transfer which is the main reason it's really hard already.
- Bus fare raise. This is symbolic of our inability to be just. (to all classes of people)
- Bus fare increase.
- Buses: people should have public transportation that is available and timely.
- Bus fares for seniors should be different in price versus that of the youth. There are no more free go passes for seniors, and now it does not benefit us to pay full fare. Students are getting free rides. When I was coming up I had to walk to school, but I don't think that they should raise the fair, and I want to receive my two fares back.

- I don't want to increase the bus fares. You lose people that way who buy monthly bus passes. Parking meters would be on the lakefront. Meters on the lakefront would be my resource to cut back.
- I don't care about the increase of the fares on the buses. The transfer system sucks. I shouldn't have to pay cash fares every time I get on and get off the bus. I can't afford to ride the bus anymore.
- Bus fares, because they are for the lowest income citizens. It seems the republican governors don't like the City of Milwaukee, which is democratic, and we are seeing that in state revenues. Governors Walker and Thompson cut over many years. Madison and Milwaukee are the two democratic counties and revenue fueled by the hate between the parties. We have to work together to do what is best for all.
- Bus fares.
- Bus fares and lakefront parking meters. They are not big \$ income items and it messes with people's recreation and angers residents.
- Not bus fare—If you increase the bus fare, people can't get to go to work.
- Don't do bus fare—people who just make minimum wage and can't afford to ride the bus and pay \$4.50/day and can't get where they need to go; it takes away from Milwaukee County.
- Not the option bus fare—don't use the trolley; it can be scrapped and put the money back into the bus system.
- I especially don't like the increase in bus fares.
- Bus fares wouldn't be appropriate when County park amenities are also in the mix. That's my least favorite.
- Bus fares also.
- Bus fares. Are we aware of what groups these are impacting?
- Increased bus fares – I don't use the bus but I used to when I worked downtown. It would be difficult for poor people who have to rely on the buses.
- Bus fare – minimum wage jobs can't afford to pay more.
- Increased bus fares – too difficult for poorer people
- Bus fares, which generally serve the poor who need the bus, so they can get to work. They depend on the bus.
- Bus fares. Consider different fares (child fare, senior fare, handicapped fare, student fare, adult fare)
- Bus fares.
- I do not support increasing bus fares far too many people need that service who can't afford other means of transportation.
- I am totally against raising the bus fares.
- I do not support raising bus fares.
- I am against increasing bus fares.
- As far as the buses are concerned, leave them alone. There was a recent increase.
- I would not support raising the bus fee. It would hurt the poor who use that service.
- The one I least support is an increase in bus fares.
- I least support an increase in buses [rider fees].
- No increase on bus fares they are to high now and any increase would affect the elderly.

Property Tax

- I don't want property taxes raised. Younger people can probably pay more. It's unfair on the elderly.
- No increase in property taxes, because property taxes are high already. Commends the County Executive for not wanting to money taken and for asking for support to figure out the best

solution. There should not be more money going out to the state and less returning. We should be writing elected officials.

- I do not support raising Property Taxes. I am on a fixed income and can barely stay afloat right now.
- I do not support raising Property Taxes because a lot of us are just making enough or getting enough to pay the bills we have.
- My first reaction is no to increase property taxes we already a high tax state.
- I do not support increasing property taxes in part because I don't like how property owners are treated in certain areas of the County. I have a question of equality and sharing of resources to all property owners.
- I would not like to see property tax increases. My house assessment has been going down while taxes are going up. I approve of fee increases for County Park amenities because I view them as a luxury and not a necessity. For people on social security and a pension, things don't always balance out — cost of living can be a squeeze.
- No increase in taxes because I don't want to pay more taxes.
- No increase in property taxes, because I pay so much already.
- I do not support increasing the property tax at all. I live in 53206, where there are so many abandoned houses.
- I don't support increased in property taxes.
- No increase in property taxes.
- Don't choose property taxes —seniors can't pay people are losing their homes through foreclosures. Don't do it—it is unfair for people to use their alternatives.
- I do not favor raising the property tax. The city should go after the landlords who are not paying. There is a lot of money that can be collected there. I am a property owner. It would be a hardship for me to pay more.
- I say no to the property tax increase. Renters will have the biggest problem with that. When the tax goes up the renters have to pay more.
- Do not raise the property tax. It would hurt homeowners and renters. By the way my social security payment hasn't been raised in 3 years.
- No increase in property taxes I don't want to compete with other counties. Other counties tend to copy what Milwaukee County does.
- Property tax since there are many poor residents
- Property tax. We've paid in all our adult lives.
- Property tax. Its high now and we need a County pay freeze, and cut back in benefits to employees.
- Property taxes. We didn't get a social security increase so others shouldn't either.
- No increase in property taxes, appraisal have decreased in the past 15 years. Too many people are suffering.
- No increase in property taxes.
- No increase in property taxes, no alternatives.
- Raising property tax is the worst option – people in Milwaukee don't like taxes being raised especially after the pension scandal.
- Property Taxes. I could not see them going any higher. It would hurt any of us that own a house. If we have a set income, and we can't increase it then we are in trouble.
- Property taxes.
- We pay enough property taxes as it is and we can't get anything done.
- I would not increase property taxes. You pay enough already.
- No property taxes. They are increasing it.
- Property tax increase would be a problem. Taxes are too high it's difficult for seniors to survive.
- Increase of property taxes. Renters have to pay cost in property taxes.

- I have a problem with increasing property taxes. Seniors should not have to pay as much because we don't use as much services. Health care cost too much for seniors.
- Property tax increase is out of the question.
- Property taxes, if increased, I would have to sell my house, my husband and I because we could not afford to pay a higher tax rate because we can barely pay the taxes now, and we do not see ourselves moving into a transitional living facility.
- The increase of property tax – I know I will not be able to keep my home, and I don't know where I would live if that happened. This causes me a lot of stress, and it truly burdens me emotionally. So the raising of property taxes, I feel, should be out.
- I struggle most with an increase in property tax. It's already higher than other parts of the state. There has been no increase in bus fees in seven years, so maybe a little one.
- People on fixed incomes cannot afford more property tax and they should not have to pay more.

Parking Meters

- I'm against parking meters along the lakefront. When I go to the lake I'll spend most of my day there. Why just the lake [for meter consideration]? What about the other County parks? If they start at the lake they'll do the other parks soon after.
- I wouldn't support the parking meters on the lakefront, it should remain first come first serve
- No parking meters at lakefront.
- The biggest one for me is saying no to the parking meters on the lakefront. We need to continue to have social access for all socioeconomic levels there. Meters would start separating classes and who would be allowed to frequent the park, it should remain a green space for everyone
- I don't support the parking meters, it will ring a different class of folks, some people can't afford it, and a lot of people occupy it.
- Least Support for the parking meters along the lakefront. Meters are a pain in the butt and the lakefront is an important place for people to be, it will make it a less vibrant place. The beach is a place for breaking down barriers.
- I dislike the lakefront parking meter proposal the most because it's a hassle to enforce. I feel they might create a sticker for parking in County Parks, much like the State Park sticker. I have a rationale for not having parking meters on the lake. For many people without air conditioning in the inner city, they use the lake to cool off on warm summer days. So, parking meters would deter people from easily coming down to the lake. Also, parking downtown is very difficult.
- I'm most opposed to parking meters. \$300K may not be enough to install and maintain them. People who can pay more for vehicle registration fee should pay more. The sales tax isn't noticed if that is increased.
- No meters on the lakefront. The mayor always wants us to utilize downtown, but we have to pay to be downtown. Instead of paying for parking, let people spend that money on things downtown. I completed the balancing act, but I don't understand why so many areas of the budget are not adjustable. Blend public safety, because in my opinion, the sheriff and police department do not coordinator well together.
- I think the parking meters is a bad idea. The lakefront needs to be open to everybody. Spending an hour by the lakefront is important. People can relax and enjoy nature without having to worry about paying the parking meter.
- About the parking meters...the lake front belongs to everyone. It needs to be available to all. Those who go there can least afford a parking fee.
- No parking meters along the lakefront, to service and maintain the meters is more than the revenue coming in.
- No parking meters along the lake front, they are places for people who don't have money for other activities.

- No parking meters along the lakefront, the meters don't work and I get tickets and I have fight the tickets.
- There's a concern about having a 5-hour max on the lakefront parking. It depends on the details of the meter.
- Lakefront parking meters. People go and enjoy themselves and shouldn't need to worry about plugging a meter.
- I do not support parking meters along the Lake Front because it would change the character. We have a beautiful lake front so let's not deface it.
- The parking meter proposal. It struck me as particularly unjust.
- [I do not support] the parking meter proposal . . . we are so proud of the lakefront.
- I don't like the parking meter proposal.
- I also hate parking along the lake front. That's where people go to cool off if they don't have AC or just a bit of free fun. This would create more chaos for those who probably already don't have it.
- The increase in parking on the lakefront. Are we aware of what groups these are impacting?
- I'm against parking meters by the lake – the lake is good for families that can't afford other entertainment.
- Parking meters at the lake front – it will make beer sales go down and people won't go there. People will park for hours. There should be more activities at the lake front that will bring in more people.

Vehicle Registration Fee

- In my opinion I think we don't need to increase anything. Property taxes – they'll go up on it one way or the other. Vehicle registration shouldn't increase either.
- No increase in vehicle registration fees. I don't have an alternative solution.
- No increase in vehicle registration fees. I don't have another solution.
- I would consider Vehicle Registration. I wish the County would take into consideration the budget of senior citizens as me. I wish they would stop building the Street Car and use the money for the budget.
- My vehicle registration was increased last year. I don't want that to increase [again this year.] However, I don't want bus riders to pay more. I'm between those two. We have some poor people in our area. I don't want an increase in fares. If anything, increase bus routes. Outsiders should have a higher bus fare.
- In the event that they increase property taxes and increase bus fare, fix the highways. I am against raising the vehicle registration. We need to make the bus passes cheaper than it is now for senior citizens.
- No increase in vehicle registration fee.
- Vehicle registration. I don't use the bus and I use a lot of County services.
- Vehicle registration – seniors are on fixed income and cannot afford more. Maybe bring in more activities to the lake front and parks to bring more people outside the County and charge fees to everyone.
- I would not support vehicle registration increase. The prices are high enough and it's a burden for so many. They have gas, insurance car notes etc.
- I do not support vehicle registration fee going up.
- I pay enough for vehicle registration. It just went up! I don't think it'd be a good idea to increase that!
- Vehicle registration fee - it's already gone up a lot. But What else if not sales tax?

Increasing Fees for Amenities

- Increase in fees for parks amenities is the worst option. People who choose County parks are usually under a pretty tight budget. Except for the golfers!
- Park fees.
- This past spring our family needed a facility for a party. We checked into picnic areas and covered areas. The minimum cost was \$85.00 for a picnic area, and \$120.00 for a covered area. It's \$300+ for a pavilion. We decided it's not affordable, so we held it in someone's home. We were surprised at the high cost. We're a middle class family. African-American families tell me that they don't go to parks because they don't feel safe. The parks don't meet their needs.

Alternative Revenue Sources

- I think suburbanites should pay as much as we do. They come into the city for what they want, like the arena and they don't pay enough. I don't agree with any of this.
- I think we should all have the same tax base with the suburbs.
- I think we need to look at other ways to raise taxes.
- Advocate better at the state level for more funding for the County.
- Revisit the retirement/health benefits for retirees, No more "deals" for individuals. This is just such a HUGE part of the budget obligations.
- The County should consider charging a fee for the use of Senior Centers.
- Get rid of street cars. I think it's a waste of tax payers' money because I don't ever think I will go down to ride a street car.
- I have two suggestions: people have to pay a wheel tax to come into Milwaukee County. Charge a regular fee according to cost [value] and weight.
- It's nice to have senior centers. We learn different activities, play pool, cards, talk, mingle with other seniors. Without it, people will get depressed. People coming from the suburbs should pay to use our facilities.
- Cut the wages of the under County staff member and leave the elderly alone. Government people are paid too much money for what they give us.
- Raising a tax on our living quarters. Many move OUT of the city because property taxes are so high. People can live elsewhere in the state and pay lesser property tax.
- Charging for the use of Senior Centers would help to offset property tax increases.
- I think the city officials that we have hired should take a pay cut. That's where they should start with the new budget. Let it hit their pockets and let them see how it feels.
- Have special trolley fares for chartered trolleys that take seniors on a shopping trip. They can also use the buses to do that to help older people. They pay an increased fee for the enjoyment, and money is made. Charge \$5.00 a person.
- An alternate is to increase the sales tax.
- I think there are other ways of getting resources such as the Beer Gardens; I think they are doing pretty good.
- My alternatives are Beer Gardens, Gift Shops and resale outlets.
- My alternative would be bicycles, auctions, and pooling talents together for major dinner and profits go towards resources.
- Another alternative would be having co-sponsorships for the parks and facilities.
- Alternative would be a dedicated transit budget.
- My alternative would be for us to have what is due us from the state and gasoline tax could go towards transportation.
- Increase cost of phone calls in jails and House of Corrections.
- Look at grants and partnerships with business leaders to generate additional revenue.

- While I do not fully understand the alternatives, I would say increase golf course fees and use money to create better bus systems. Can't we spread the money out to build more lines for the people?
- If I could, he would get the state to allow the County to create an income tax. This could be a progressive tax that took more from those who could afford it, and less from those that couldn't.
- Pay more if you're a visitor to our County, but we should have a pass with a lower rate for residents. We should also have a toll on our side of the border to catch people coming in from outside of the County. That would help [generate revenue].
- Freeze County salaries for a year.
- Give more highway speeding tickets and tickets for moving violations. Increase ticket fees for repeat offenders. For each additional offense, the fee is raised.
- Make the Bucks and Brewers pay more to the County. Decrease the salaries of the highest paid managers in County government. No bonuses. Add a tax on sports tickets.
- My alternative would be for us to have toll roads just as Illinois.
- Could we have a work pass for the work system, just like they do for the public high schools. High school students have a pass that enables them to ride the bus during certain hours in the morning, and after school. If we do this for adults who use the bus, those people who are going to work would pay less to ride the bus during certain hours.
- You should be able to buy your way out of juror duty, and give the money collected to the County.
- There should be a wheel tax for those that use the roads, but no increase for bus fares or vehicle registration. We should have free transportation for seniors like they do in Chicago. We have given our money to Seattle and Cleveland for mass transit. It doesn't matter what race, creed, religion, gender, political affiliation you are, you will get old someday.
- In terms of property taxes, I live between two vacant lots and there are squatters in the empty houses. We need to find a way to sell the houses to people that can afford them. One of my neighbors, the squatters are siphoning off electricity and they are afraid to say anything. Could the city renovate these houses? If renters move in, the neighborhoods will keep moving downhill. Come up with a plan for the city to sell to people instead of renting.
- User-based fees are a better way to go to not hurt those most at risk. Fees like at Washington Park—the difference is minimal and can be raised for some members in many situations. A solution would be to offer a suggested fee to those who would like to use the center, or to charge by numbers of activities they participate in.
- Retirees from before the split should have to pay in something.
- Get money back from the state!!
- Money for the street repairs can come from vehicle taxes. The Board of Supervisors keeps raising their salaries. They don't realize it is hard for us on the lower end who have to watch the pennies we spend.
- Work hard with governor and state legislature to get ½% on sales taxes to support city and County programs. There is no free lunch.
- Put parking meters in other areas around Milwaukee County.
- Charge the tourist and others who come from outside of Milwaukee County. Charge park fees, but call them something different.
- I don't know if they already do this, but maybe they could sell concessions by the lake, and have that money go towards the County.
- Increase sales tax for tourist.
- I have ideas to raise more money. Change the property tax structure to make it progressive. Properties with values over \$200,000 would pay a higher tax rate than those people who are just trying to keep a roof over our heads. Another idea would be a wheel tax for luxury vehicles only. My third idea is to get some money from the parking structures. People pay \$25 for special events and the County doesn't get anything from it. Maybe have annual passes for special

events and for parking for Park and County events and the parking structures would share this with the County.

- County Sheriff's Office—you should get rid of it. I don't see what we'd lose. The individual municipalities can cover their towns, saving money for operating and redundancy. Municipalities can cover this.
- I like partnerships. For example, China Lights at Boerner. This is a model more like that . . . utilizing park space and done with partners like banks and others that can afford to fund things like China Lights.
- Hire a couple guys to work on partnerships.
- Corporate taxes – I think of past corporate giving events . . . [we could have] more like that in the future. This is a festering thing; corporate taxes ... they should be taxed.
- Add open road tolling and don't add toll booths. Poor people can't afford the tolls though. Milwaukee County roads are terrible for driving. My suspension was very costly last year due to Milwaukee roads.
- Increase sales tax.
- Add toll road tax.
- An alternative is to increase the sales tax, which was already raised to make money for the stadium.
- An alternative is to create Non-resident fees for all County services (zoo, golf, Domes, Boerner gardens).
- Other County's that come into Milwaukee use these services and they should have them pay the increases because of using our roads. Have them pay for other services. People are getting depressed over this.
- The issue is a bus card and people from other counties using the zoo pay more for these services (e.g., stadium). We should have a toll and they should be prepared to pay more and keep them all going.
- Look at the alternative ideas to increase resources. Don't have problem raising taxes if you get something for it. If Kohl would go private, it wouldn't be as good. For example, community gardens would fall apart after a couple of years if no one was responsible for it. They wouldn't be sustained.
- As an alternative, visitors and tourists and people coming in for employment – there should be some way to catch that [source of revenue].
- There should be a way to incentivize bus fare in taxes. [I mean] I am already paying for it – I should use it more. For example, households get free bus rides [coupons] or something in their taxes. This would increase bus ridership and raise revenue too.
- The alternative is to look to the Legislature to see if fees can be based on value of the vehicle. I'd like to know what is the effect [of a value based fee] on those who do pay fees on roads already. We should evaluate the impact of a value based fee.
- I go to Tai Chi and Hawaiian dance at the senior center. Golf courses charge more on weekends so my friends go elsewhere. Others coming in from the suburbs should also pay a wheel tax, and also a joining fee to use our park services. They come in from the suburbs and they don't check in at the senior centers. They come right in and start using our services.
- I need a holistic approach. I want to research all of them. I am looking for other sources. My other source would be to raise inmates in prison's phone calls.
- There's no free lunch. I do not support abolishing taxes. Taxes should be increased to pay for needed services.
- Senior citizens carry old morays and ways of doing things. We are used to paying taxes on cars, homes, etc. These young people are not buying or they are buying condos, which you don't have to pay taxes on. I'm for what the Governor did in Green Bay—when he gave them tax dollars back for having the Packers there. For all of the buildings going up in Milwaukee, they need to give us some incentives to stay in the city.

- I like the vehicle tax or wheel tax. The state collects one million dollars a day in gas tax money...where does it go? The roads are terrible.

Miscellaneous

- Not opposed to any of them.
- Not opposed to any – fill out the money for the centers.
- All acceptable to increase any of them – reality is that I’m not really affected by most of these choices. I don’t agree with these questions – the County needs a holistic approach and not one of these will solve the deficit.
- ALL options need to be on the table – there is not one that I’m opposed to completely. My concern is that if any of these are changed, will they just continue to increase in subsequent years.
- I would not exclude any of them if it would balance Milwaukee County’s budget. I would definitely prioritize the order they go in.
- I’m out of ideas. City and County governments are more important than I thought. We need to be more involved.
- I have no ideas.
- They don’t mention how they are going to put back money for the Senior Centers that is being taken away.
- Do not touch Senior Center’s lunch program they provide quality lunches for us.
- Milwaukee County is seen as an albatross for the state of Wisconsin’s budget. Seniors need to ask why are services being reduced or cancelled.
- The seniors; do not touch the seniors or the elderly.

Connected Conversation

Funding sources

- And why can’t we get more funding from the state?
- Abele and Barrett are trying to work on this.
- Was that in 1977 when the red line stopped at Villard for house insurance? I paid \$25 for water then. Now it’s \$375 every three months. Medicare is taking me here. Milwaukee is taking me there. Maybe I should move out to the suburbs and pay less water, less electricity, less everything. How come we can’t cut the salary of the officials? That would be a revenue source.
- I’m all for toll roads in Wisconsin.
- We have people coming into Wisconsin to use the casinos all the time. Let them pay a tax.
- Create a service [for which the County charges the user] to take people back and forth from Milwaukee to Chicago.
- Is there a way to privatize any departments? The zoo?
- Privatizing schools was a failure.
- Someone should research any services that could be self-sufficient, like the zoo.
- I have an observation. I see that if it is something we don’t use they we don’t mind money being raised from those services: vehicles, golf...
- This stuff is just band aids.
- Small wind-generates installed on the top of empty park buildings. They pay themselves off sooner, and generate electricity. It’ll bring Milwaukee County into higher technology. Also bring in mobile wind generators and park them in empty County parking lots. Make an exhibit

in some parks. Make it artsy-fartsy with lights and involve the arts community. People will drive in to see the lights. Have chocolate houses and themed food places in parks so people stay and pay to partake. This could be Art Fest/Alternative Energy Fest.

- A lot of us are here because of the senior centers. A suggestion is to have fees to use the senior centers. Raise the lunch fee for seniors. It's just \$2.50 or \$3.00.
- We dip into the same fiscal budget too much.
- I wish there was a plan to use the Marcus Center and Public Museum to produce resources.
- I don't think the County can have toll roads.
- Parking meters' revenue should be split between the city and County.
- They say 'act locally, think globally'. We aren't going to go anywhere without the gerrymandering going away. We need the state to give us a release from the County Debt. Who are we paying that debt service to? Is this the interest on a big bill? Can we get the state to help us out with that?
- Do parks get money for Runs?
- Explore the possibility of putting a referendum on the ballot to restore funding to the urban counties.
- Fundraisers in parks.
- Go after bigger companies and get money from them for the benefits they get. Many big companies have tax breaks at our expense. They should help out for what they get here.
- Is there a way to generate revenue for homeowners to pick up trash, if not charge a fee for those that do litter?
- The parks should have raffles to make money.
- Everyone should pay equally—if you work here but don't live here you should pay your share. I don't want people to lose their homes; some people have fixed incomes and no pension and services. They took the go pass to pay for roads but more money needs to be given. Milwaukee County pays for everything.
- It's depressing when you think about the choices they give us because it still doesn't meet the gap. The State needs to kick in; they can have tolls.
- Have huge taxes on alcohol; increase the taxes not just on cigarettes.
- I think the cost of the maintenance and building of roads should be shared by surrounding states that drive in and out of Wisconsin.

Closings and Budget cuts affecting seniors

- Are they thinking of closing all of the senior centers, or some? - Yes, probably not Rose or Washington (spoken by a County representative).
- They're talking about cutting back on the meal program [for seniors].
- They're the ones who need it most, and people are always picking on them when it comes to budget cuts.
- I was coming to the senior center and wondering why they didn't ever update anything. Now I see. They don't have any money. It would be a shame to cut buildings or the nutrition program. For some people it's the only meal they have all day.
- The percentage of seniors is high in the County and we don't get our money back.
- County Parks are the hub of the community. I walk my dog in the park and there's the Senior Center. How are we going to help people who are homebound without continuing with senior activities and meals? It's cheaper to keep them at home.
- It's something how County retirees take up so much of the budget. I think that shows officials not doing their job.
- I use the senior bus pass, but it is being eliminated.
- Talking positive and negative, meals, cars, jobs. Why cut the poor or people on fixed incomes? They should have an expense account for the homeless, poor, and seniors.

- When things come into law, where they should cut, it seems as if they start with the senior budget, health, Medicaid, social security, and they just don't seem to realize that we are on a tight and fixed income.
- Our elected officials make all of these promises of what they are not going to cut, and end up cutting the very things that they said they would not cut. They tell us a bunch of lies and it's not fair to us because we elected them and we pay them.
- They keep cutting services for the seniors.
- I now see why Milwaukee not able to support our senior centers and MPS. Madison is sending the funding to other parts of the state then wants to talk about how bad it's in Milwaukee.
- If we raise property taxes even moderately I might not be able to stay in my home. Then the city would have to pay for me in a nursing home. Staying in my home would cost less.
- The vehicle rate is already raised \$30. Car owners are free to ride the bus. I think elderly should ride for free.
- I didn't realize that people who own property are also on a fixed income like senior citizens.
- A lot of the seniors have lost spouses and the only income is their only social security. That income is not increasing.
- A lot of these people think they aren't old or they aren't going to get old.
- There's been a lot of support for senior center services.
- The people need the senior centers. It's the place where people find people to talk to. We have a woodshop here!
- The Department on Aging is cutting us off at the knees for the senior centers. The centers will still be there, but the programming is going down. Without the programming we would kill each other!
- This conversation got me sold on the senior center.
- I've done everything here [Wilson Senior Center]. I'm very connected. The staff is wonderful.
- I heard they were closing this [Wilson Senior Center]. – Answer from participant/County employee: There's no conversations about that, but we are looking at costs across the County. No decisions have been made to cut County services – that's not what the County Executive wants. But there is a gap. We want to inform you and get your feedback.
- Why did the County give Senior Centers bus passes then take them back?

Doubts about the intentions of the County, and the use of taxpayers' money

- He's having these meetings (Abele), but I think the decision has already been made.
- Do really need to put value in parks or more value in people?
- They say they're working for us but we don't see anything.
- I can't get Medicaid. Paying too much.
- The rich get richer and the poor poorer.
- I don't understand how we can give money to the Bucks, be talking about paying for FoxConn to come to Wisconsin, and be having this conversation about comparatively small numbers. I find it startling that we're having conversations about huge amounts of money going to the wealthiest businesses. It doesn't make sense, and experts back up the fact that it doesn't make economic sense to give so much public money to these projects. We need to stabilize pensions. The challenge is, we don't want to feel the pain but will slough it off to out-of-towners. We need people to feel like we're all in this together. To address the big challenges of our time, we need to think about paying for the future. Legislators need to be able to propose how they'll pay for their new ideas. We need to develop a culture of problem solving — not just hyper-partisanship — so that we can return to responsible and effective government. We won't get out of our current mess without it.
- Why is so much money being filtered out of Milwaukee to the state, but we have less returned?

- It seems like there is an alternate plan here somewhere—we all have needs and the County is trying to take money away from all of our organizations.
- I can't imagine that such a small amount of rent that senior centers pay would make or break a budget.
- If we have this big debt they should pay that off. Then they can pay the operating expenses. I am wondering why the state has decreased funding. I wonder if the County is being aggressive enough in finding other options with the state?
- How does the count lobby the state? Why do we transfer our funds to the state?
- Are the County workers here tonight being paid? Are they paid overtime? - ...They are on salary, so no overtime.
- Why do they make us pay for the Bucks arena? We were supposed to be done with the Brewers.
- I think our problems come from the vendetta of our Governor against the County Executive and we're caught in the middle.
- To be in charge of spending is important. Money for the arena is making money for billionaires and then they closed the Senior Centers – it's not right.
- We have to live within our budget. There should be no new expenditures – they can't spend money they don't have and expect others to pay for it.
- We are here for a County budget meeting, but can't the County stay or live within its budget that's set.
- In the presentation it was explained Milwaukee is sending more money to Madison and getting less back and yet needs to provide the same services that are increasing cost; why isn't Milwaukee confronting Madison about getting less of our tax payer's money back instead of asking us to make up the difference?

Public transportation

- I recently bought a car for my son, it costs about 25% of the price for insurance/VRF/etc., so I'm not sure if it would encourage more people to use public transportation or not.
- When I was younger, I could get a bus every 5 minutes. Now if I miss a bus, it's a 30-minute wait. This is a problem.
- There's a streetcar coming. Who is going to ride it and why? It's just something that goes from here to there. - Response: it's for the tourists, not for us.
- There's good bus coverage in the city, there's not as great coverage in the suburbs like Cudahy.
- In the city, we can cut back on bus service. There's so many lines near Fond-du-Lac and downtown.
- I'm so disappointed to hear about the transfers. That's directed at poor people.
- The Rail system is not useful for seniors.
- Reducing bus services is problematic we need have more costs and less stops.
- There's nothing being done as alternative to riding the bus. (other forms of mass transit)
- I remember when I rode the bus and I had to have the exact change. The driver let me on a little bit short.
- There's a Go Pass for Seniors and Disabled people.
- I now have to pay \$1 for the GO Pass. I don't mind that. I noticed that there are going to be new things put on the buses to help disabled people. I have nothing against people with disabilities, but where does that money come from?
- The trolley – the County should get something for that – it only benefits downtown
- Instead of decreasing routes, why don't we just take more busses of the streets, it'd be less frequency but people would still have a way to get to work.

State/Policy/Legislation

- I wish the state hadn't taken over many of the programs that were being served by County employees.
- I was disturbed to find out since 2007 we have been sending more money to the state and seeing a decrease in what we receive from the state.
- The state is operating programs formerly operated by County.
- Can't we ask for more money from the state? - [Response from person from the County: We give them \$3 million, but we have to provide County services mandated by the state without funding.]
- There are Medicaid revenue streams that we're not capturing from the state. 1915 I and C to recoup insurance money. This is limited of course, because it has to be provided by the state. - [response from person from the County] This is important. We do pursue grants, alternate revenue, etc.
- End social programs that give away food at grocery stores. I see what people get. It should be like WWII when you went with your wagon to County facility and took what you were given.
- I wish the state hadn't taken over many of the programs that were being served by County employees.
- I think our problems come from the vendetta of our state disliking the County of Milwaukee and Governor is against the County Executive.
- End result is Governor doesn't care and he has other plan politically.
- How do we go about getting more of our money back from the state?
- Where are the accountability studies? Why is Milwaukee County services so reactionary?
- We need more legislative referendums.
- Voter registration indirectly will help.
- What is the role of the Medical Examiner to stop the opioid epidemic?

Parks

- The Beer Garden profits go to the Friends of the Park for doing repairs. That's an incentive.
- An idea... maybe people should pay a dollar to attend the music in the parks.
- The groups already pay to play soccer and football.
- Park employees spend all their time picking up trash.
- We need more security in the parks. Where is all the money going that we have already paid in taxes? We who are on a fixed income, we really get the short end of the stick.
- The Humboldt Park Beer Garden has been successful generating 27,000.00. It has match funding and the maintenance funds were used to remodel restrooms.

Questions about logistics

- If they close the senior centers what will become of the buildings? Will they just sit? Will they do something else with them?
- Sometimes buildings sit. Especially if there's deferred maintenance on them.
- [To the County Parks Representative seated within our group] Why are some park bathrooms opened and others not? - Typically they are open from March until winter. They are closed over winter. - But why are restrooms in certain areas of County parks gorgeous, but in inner cities not so much?
- County employee also shared that they are not closing any County structures that he is aware of and that any abandoned houses are the cities responsibility.

Communication with youth – Opportunities for youth

- What is the solution to getting young people to understand the value of people and our city?
- It's all about how they view the police, they run away from them, but it should be on a friend level to trust them. Young people need to see the police as friends. And they need a job, and a structure like we had growing up. Invest more time in our kids since we always say and view them as our future.
- My focus is on the juvenile delinquents. I want to see us include an educational component so that we can get serious about coming up out of this mess. All youth know to do is have fun at our expense. He [Abele] needs to make this issue a priority. The youth at Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake do NOT get an education. All they get is counseling, training sessions on resume writing, and dress for success training, but no formal education [of academic core content classes]. More and more vendors come into the prison system and get rich. Our youth suffers. The program is NOT working! It needs to be restructured so that our youth are gaining an education that will lead them to a diploma, and an opportunity for college, other sustainable training, or work by which they can support themselves.

Pipes and street maintenance

- The city is responsible for most of the streets and plowing.
- When you buy a home, do you own both land and home? I'm the owner but I wonder about the pipes.
- All the pipes in the roads are owned by the city. The owner owns the pipes out to the street.

Miscellaneous

- We need more events and programs like police giving out free ice cream and hot dogs and the County should support it.
- If the general public knew about these services and the Department on Aging, they would be better attended. If there isn't advertising people don't know. If they don't know they don't show up.
- My wife wanted to join a healthcare center. I told her to think of the cost and instead check out the County parks senior centers. She did. My wife didn't join the healthcare center. She comes here. It's free.
- The Hunger Task Force has an exchange with the County where they only pay \$1 "rent" per year.
- There should be combined activities with other groups, e.g. Boys and Girls Clubs.
- The Bucks and Brewers should be pitching in.
- I wish there could be conversations like this around the state so we can talk and share our concerns.
- I prefer the town hall process where we get to make comments directly to Abele.

Parting Words

- Do the fees apply to just Milwaukee County or are other counties affected as well?
- It is not fair that in the County, everyone is not paying equal fees for vehicle registration.
- I feel penalized for living in the Milwaukee County system.
- Add toll roads to the major highways in Milwaukee.
- So many other states collect money for tolls, Wisconsin should too.
- Change the state law that the return to dollars to Milwaukee increase.
- So much money is sent out, but so little money is returned to Milwaukee.
- Can duplicated services performed by city and by County be combined?
- Wondering if this information is really going to be considered as the budget is set or is this just an exercise to make people feel like they had a voice?
- It is also important for the County to identify “unannounced needs” - legitimate needs when no one is vocal about them.
- There are ways to hear those voices – these questions don’t necessarily do that.
- Are they going to close the parks?
- I think we should have parking meters at the lakefront. People that drive there can afford it. It’s like going to the Dells or Bucks game, you should pay to use the lakefront.”
- We should not increase bus fares- people need the busses.
- We spent about 5 to 10 minutes with the Balancing Act computer program. There was not sufficient time to get real input or consider changing revenue sources to any substantial degree. It was a good introduction though to how the program works and its usefulness.
- It’s hard to see that there is hope, but I believe in my heart there is hope, and there will be a change.
- These sessions bring some kind of the way I think that there will be change. If I could say it in one word, there will be change.
- I wish there were more things for the children to do in the parks. More equipment and structured activities/programs.
- I wish there were more learning programs for neighborhood children. We used to have the Neighborhood Youth Core and that was cut out. I thought that was a great opportunity growing up.
- I remember the programs from President Roosevelt...the youth participated. I think it is going to be difficult to bring back those particular programs because they had too many things going on and things starting being cut away.
- I think the County could be facility holder and have others who create programs, community support groups to take care of activities and learning. “Park friends group”?
- We’ve got to get back what we used to have, we have to.
- Vehicle Registration: Does that mean the funds are used for transportation related expenses, buses and highways or can it be used for fixing infrastructure and the bicycle trails?
- I’m not taking very much from this conversation to tell the truth.
- I got something out of this. I’m going on line. It’s always that they have us doing their job. And then they don’t listen to us. I’m disappointed with the County and Abele.
- I don’t like the new format. I want the proposed budget here. We have to go home and use the internet.
- Do these fees apply to the state or just Milwaukee County?
- What is the current registration fee?
- I think they should give free bus passes for fixed, disabled and low income persons.
- Why do they keep cutting bus routes, how are the people supposed to get where they need to go?
- I am glad I came. I like the Zeidler Center method of facilitating.
- The sound all around and the various conversations was very distracting.

- I like the golfing in the park because it is something new.
- I enjoyed the conversations and opinions and the different perspectives instead of the usual conversations and people I talk to.
- According to graphs 97% of the budget is because of pensions and budget service increases. I use to work with Milwaukee County employees have not received free health care since 1995.
- Stop misleading seniors to use MCTS if services are decreasing and costs are increasing.
- It was a great group, with great ideas.
- This is a good process to get out different opinions. I will continue to learn and advocate for what I think is right for our senior citizen centers.
- I seemed to have gotten answers. I appreciated being about to listen to questions and answers and being able to speak. I still want answers to the rumors going around about taking senior citizen's activities away.
- I'm taking away the (lack of) accountability of government. I understand that the republicans are controlling everything now, but I do not believe that Executive Abele has been serving Milwaukee County citizens enough. The County government should not be giving away land to developers and they should stay out of subsidizing private development. If they can't stay out of it, they need to be getting market price for the land.
- I'm confused because the flier I saw for this event said that they were closing facilities. Are they not considering that? I get mad about the County executive not being aggressive enough in getting money back for the County. The city of Milwaukee should not have to pay for the Bucks arena.
- The County needs to be more creative to increase money and private and public sector. Think better and be more proactive. Two other participants agreed with the statement.
- Leave the senior centers alone.
- State shared revenue, and another participant agreed.
- The acoustics are not good in the center and it is too much noise. No one likes paying taxes.
- I just hope they're not closing a lot of the senior places. We need the facilities and services.
- As a member of AARP Milwaukee Committee, we're working on making Milwaukee a livable community. We need the service centers as a meaningful place for social engagement. County supervisors need to remember that. Maintain our score as an age-friendly community.
- Do not close any of the senior centers.
- Like the Wisconsin Center district, can Milwaukee County be divided into zip codes and have the authority to raise and decrease taxes in each zip code?
- Do what needs to be done to balance the deficit.
- Incorporate Lakefront taxes and beverages taxes for Milwaukee lakefront. Get the attention of the state to help Milwaukee.
- It was respectful.
- I learned a lot.
- Concerned that this specific center is being left out because it is smaller.
- Presentation was helpful. Conversation was respectful.
- Find process informative – good to hear other sides of the story as compared to the old way of Town Hall where everyone just sounded off. We need solutions.
- Milwaukee County Parks used to be so beautiful.
- Our city was so beautiful with all of the flowers around the streets and park buildings.
- We need better and more education in Mental Health and Addiction awareness.
- It'll be interesting to inventory all of the parks to see if it's true that parks in certain neighborhoods get lesser services. Also, reading, writing and listening skills at Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake must become the primary education that youth at those facilities receive. Why don't those kids get an education?
- It's a tough balance to know who's using which park services, when, and how to balance what needs to be done.

- The state needs to understand that they need to come and talk to the people.
- I'm glad to have a chance to vent. I want them to know that I vented.
- I saw no results from the last Zeidler conversation in which I participated. Yes, it's peaceful, but I think it's a cop-out on the part of Chris Abele. I'd like to see results or at least feedback.
- My most immediate concern is senior citizens, but I'm concerned about other departments, too.
- I agree. I feel like I am meeting the ladies I want to grow up to be.
- That we aren't interested in cutting spending. We want to increase revenue. Focus on that. Make the pie bigger.
- Elected officials matter. We need to be sure to help get the right people elected, and get people to the polls.
- We need to value people more instead of parks, structures. It seems like the country is trying to take from me, from us.
- I see seniors, people with disabilities, and everyone has something near to their heart, but we have to see the big picture. I wish people would look at what benefits all of us. How do we develop neighbor to neighbor resources? Volunteers! This has gone by the wayside, and it creates a better way of living.
- This dialogue is great. Nice ideas. Got me thinking.
- I hope that everyone doesn't jump to conclusions that this place [Wilson Senior Center] is closing. Maybe there will be changes in fees, but I don't believe it will close.
- This is a great small group format. It's an effective way to get voices heard. But I'm concerned about access, about getting people here. I wasn't at the other dialogues, but I hope that between them, they represent many people in the community. I want to make sure everyone's voices are heard. Could those without email be mailed info about the next steps?
- It's unfair. Poor people suffer and get hurt the most.
- I do believe there is hope. If we can find some way other than raising taxes, and if we can brainstorm with our aldermen and elected officials I think it can be done.
- There should be ways to tell people that these are the only options [for raising revenue] because of State law. I didn't think that these were the only options. I wondered why these were the same options as last year, when I came to the hearing. County should get the message out to others. I [wouldn't] know if I hadn't asked the question "why are you [County] asking the same questions as last year?"
- You need to talk to the Legislature to change this.
- The people approved a referendum ... the State said no. That should change.
- I was with some people from Kansas who were amazed at our lake front.
- People who visit from out of state always comment upon how beautiful and clean our city is and how great our parks are.
- I like this process – it went better than I thought. There were things that came up that I never would have thought about.
- Our main concern is the Senior Center – we volunteer and use the centers.
- Classes here (Wilson Senior Center) are filled; they are inexpensive and staffed by volunteers.
- I am concerned about safety in some of the buildings.